



STANDARDS FOR YOUTH



PO Box 5781, Spartanburg SC, 29304
864-583-7606

Parental Consent to Counsel Minors

I acknowledge that I voluntarily allow my child to receive counsel from leaders with Hope for Wholeness, a Christian, non-therapist, worship, teaching, discipleship, and mutual support program.

I am the minor’s legal guardian, and understand that graphic material will likely be discussed such as sexuality, homosexuality, abuse, masturbation, and pornography.

I understand that issues of upbringing, with considerations of the mother/father relationships will be discussed, along with sibling relationships.

I further understand that religious standards will be used in counsel that is based strictly on the Bible, from the Christian world view. I am aware that the leadership of Hope for Wholeness are not licensed professional counselors.

I agree that Hope for Wholeness is not obligated to share issues revealed in counsel, unless it is believed that my child may be a harm to himself or herself or a danger to others.

I am aware that my child's participation in Hope for Wholeness is not a substitute for psychiatric treatment, psychotherapy, and therapeutic counseling or any other form of professional therapy.

I am also aware that my child's participation in Hope for Wholeness is not a substitute for his or her active involvement in a local Christian church body of our choice.

I am voluntarily allowing my child to participate in Hope for Wholeness with full knowledge of these facts and I accept complete responsibility for his/her psychological, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ascertain my child's need for professional counseling and to seek such professional counseling, as needed.

I further acknowledge that my child's participation in Hope for Wholeness does not create any special relationship of custody or control between the child and Hope for Wholeness or its members (including any agent, employee, officer, or director of Hope for Wholeness) or between them and any other person.

As consideration for being accepted by Hope for Wholeness to voluntarily participate in Hope for Wholeness, I, on behalf of the minor, myself and my assigns, heirs, executors, guardians and other legal representatives, hereby release Hope for Wholeness, Truth Ministries, or its members (including all agents, employees, officers, and directors) from any liability for any injuries suffered by me or my child during our voluntary participation in Hope for Wholeness, resulting from the negligent acts or omissions of Hope for Wholeness, Truth Ministries, or its members (including any agent, employee, officer, or director), or resulting from the negligent acts or omissions of any other participant of the Hope for Wholeness Program. Further, I, on behalf of the minor, myself, and my assigns, heirs, executors, guardians, and other legal representatives, hereby agree that I will not make any claim against, sue or seek to attach the property of Hope for Wholeness, Truth Ministries, or its members (including any agent, employee, officer or director) and that I waive all actions, claims or demands that I, or they, now or hereafter may have, for any injuries suffered by me or my child during our voluntary participation in Hope for Wholeness, resulting from the negligent act or omissions of Hope for Wholeness, Truth Ministries, or its members (including any agent, employee, officer, or director), or resulting from the negligent act or omissions of any other participant of the Hope for Wholeness Program.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Print _____

Child’s Name (print) _____

Date _____



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Age Range

The HFW Support Group programs are not intended for youth younger than 13 years of age. Parents should educate themselves and speak to their children with concern to their special situation, with guidance from their pastor, and possibly consulting with a trusted Christian counselor, and possibly consulting with a local HFW Ministry Affiliate.

Background Checks and Leadership

Any leader within HFW that is to work with minors, must have a background check showing no past inappropriate actions with a minor. You may request to see a copy. If leaders have ever had any inappropriate involvement with a minor, they are under contract to have no contact with minors. Leaders must be Senior Level, of four years sobriety with a background check, to work with teens. Any other leader must be under the direct supervision of a Senior Level leader.

No youth may be in a mixed small group (adults with youth) at any time, no exceptions. They may participate in teaching times and worship in mixed groups, but must have a separate group (youth only) with an approved Senior Level leader.

Intake Forms

Any parent of a teen to be considered for participation in a HFW Support Group Program must complete intake forms, in addition to your son or daughter completing his/her own form. Call your ministry leader with any questions. We strongly suggest that you not read your son or daughter's answers contained in the intake form prior to mailing or handing it to your ministry leader.

Moral Standards for Youth Support Group

You have come to Hope for Wholeness because you struggle with a sexual or relational problem. For most, this means that you struggle with sexual temptations. Some of you may still be at the point at which you "fall" sexually (i.e., give in to sexual temptation; "act out"). We are here to deal with that. Helping you in such a situation is a normal part of our ministry.

However, there are sexual falls that are not a normal part of our ministry. These are falls between members of our support groups. Any inappropriate behavior among members can damage and even destroy the group. Trust is lost. Hope can become replaced with cynicism. The innocent are betrayed. The reputation of the ministry, and thus its ability to help others, can be damaged.

For those reasons, we have established rules that are aimed at preventing sexual falls among group members, or if they do occur, minimizing the damage that they will cause to individuals and to the group.

The rules are as follows:

No group members are to interact one on one or in groups, without a HFW leader present.

Meetings are allowed, when planned with another HFW leader. This has to be an event that is publicized to

all members with an invitation for any to attend.

You are asked that when at group—before group, during breaks, sitting in your seat, and after group—to not gravitate to the same person, but interact with everyone and not be exclusive.

Giving out last names, phone numbers, addresses, or email addresses by any youth is NOT permitted.

As a part of any HFW planned or unplanned event, group meeting, or counseling appointment: No minor is to ride with any minor or adult, including a HFW leader, without another adult present.

You must quickly report any of the following: any type of contact between you and or other group members outside group; an approach made to you by another group member for your contact information; an approach to engage in inappropriate behavior; and any inappropriate involvement among other group members that you hear about.

If any inappropriate behavior by you or anyone else occurs, then you and others must agree to do and be a part of the following: Be willing to give names and allow us to use your name as the one reporting the offense; and if you fall, be willing to be an active part of reconciliation. This most likely would involve public confession to the group, and one-on-one regular accountability to the leader on your journey. Parents or guardians related to the individuals involved would be informed by the leader of a fall (or relationship), but leaders will give the minor(s) time to tell parent(s)/guardian(s) himself/herself before a call is made (one week).

Wants Help

It is a requirement of participation that any minor applying for participation in the Hope for Wholeness program WANTS help. If they do not desire help, they cannot participate. Their parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to participate.