

Consent Form

Lighted Path Counseling of Pennsylvania, LLC

The Counselor

The Founder of Lighted Path Counseling of Pennsylvania, Virginia Boone, is a Licensed Professional Counselor of Pennsylvania. She holds a Masters of Science in Counseling and an undergraduate degree in Bible and Missions. Her experience includes many years of private counseling and working with the homeless, residents of nursing homes, a mental institution, and the local county prison. Virginia has five grown children and fourteen grandchildren. She resides in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Confidentiality

Client-Counselor Privilege at Lighted Path Counseling is protected by ethical principles and covers all counseling sessions and client records. Information may be released only by the client's written consent. Verbal consent may be necessary in a crisis or unique circumstances. The only exceptions to confidentiality are as follows:

1. When there is a risk of imminent harm to self or to another. The counselor is ethically bound to take necessary steps to prevent such danger.
2. When there is evidence or reasonable suspicion that a child, an elderly person, or developmentally disabled individual is being sexually or physically abused or is at risk of such abuse. The counselor is legally required to take steps to protect the one at risk and to inform the proper authorities.
3. When the release of client records is court-ordered or counseling is mandated by a legal authority.
4. When the client signs a written consent form for the release of information.
5. When the counselor seeks professional, personal, or legal consultation to better assist the client.
6. When a co-counselor is involved with the counseling process.
7. When the client is a child under 18, and the counselor deems it necessary; in the best interest of the child, to notify the parent(s) or legal guardian.

Philosophy of Care

Virginia Boone takes a holistic approach to counseling. This perspective considers all dimensions of the client's life and how they interrelate. These include the

physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects of the client's life. In a personal evaluation of the various models of psychology, Virginia has concluded that biblically based therapy is the most effective holistic approach available to assist clients. This therapy, based upon principles from the Bible, adheres to a Christian worldview that may include prayer, readings, and the application of Scripture. An individual's personal beliefs and religion are respected by offering this consent of choice to receive or decline these counseling services.

Appointment Information

Length of Session An average session is 60 minutes long. The client's cooperation is needed to bring the session to a close in the appropriate time frame. Childcare is not provided.

Location The counseling office is located at 2018 North Main Ave, Scranton, PA, 18508. Please park in the rear of the building and use the front door.

Contact Information Virginia Boone may be contacted by calling or texting 570-575-8620. Clients may also email Virginia at lightedpathcounseling@gmail.com. Non-scheduled phone consultation is offered only for crisis situations if the counselor is available.

Arrival Time Clients are encouraged to arrive promptly at the scheduled time. There is no waiting room available for early arrivals. If the client arrives late, the counseling session will end at the regularly scheduled time, and the client will still be charged the full rate. The counselor reserves the right to cancel the session if the client is at least 15 minutes late.

Cancellations A 24-hour notice is required if a client is unable to keep an appointment. Please cancel by calling or texting. Appointments cancelled because of adverse weather or emergency situations are understandable and will be exempt from fees.

If the counselor cancels for reasons unrelated to the client, the client will be notified as soon as the conflict has been determined. If the counselor is late, the client can expect a full-length session.

Treatment Plan

The goals and course of counseling are determined by both the client and the counselor. The length of the counseling process varies depending on the needs and issues of the individual client. The client has the right to end therapy at any time.

However, for the best interest of the client, suspension, termination, or referral should be discussed with the counselor ahead of time.

The counselor has the right to terminate services for noncompliance with the plan of care, failure to keep appointments, violent behavior, threats of violence, involvement in criminal behavior, and failure to pay for services rendered. If the client is behind in two payments the third session will not be scheduled until arrears are paid.

In the best interest of the client, if the counselor does not deem herself competent to deal with the client's issues at hand, the client may be referred to another competent counselor.

Telehealth

Online counseling sessions are offered to all residents of Pennsylvania. A HIPAA-compliant platform will be used. Lighted Path Counseling is not responsible for any breach of confidentiality caused by the online services.

Technical difficulties are to be expected. Flexibility will be needed to deal with technical problems that might occur. A different platform or phone session may be an option if difficulty is unresolvable.

Payments for telehealth sessions are to be rendered through online services such as Venmo, PayPal, Zelle and Cash App. The payment must be submitted before the counselor will admit the client into the chat room unless other arrangements have been made prior to the session.

As in face-to-face sessions, online meetings will be conducted in a professional manner. Thus, the client should be properly attired and postured.

Financial Policy

The Cost The fee for a single session may range from \$15-\$60. The amount is determined by an income sliding scale. Adjustments in the scale will consider the number of household members or financial hardship. The amount will be mutually agreed upon in writing before counseling services begin.

Payment The payment must be rendered before the beginning of each session. Advanced payment is an option. In-person sessions may be paid by cash, checks, or through Zelle, Venmo, or PayPal. Please make checks payable to: Virginia Boone. There will be a \$25 charge for returned checks.

Cancellation Fee If the client misses or cancels an appointment without providing a 24-hour notice, the client will be charged a late fee that is equivalent to the cost of the missed session. Payment of the late-cancellation fee will be expected by the time of the next scheduled session.

I, _____ have read the above three-

(Please print)

page document concerning the counseling services of Virginia Boone, entailing her qualifications, the philosophy of care, the appointment information, the treatment plan, the telehealth information, and the financial policy. I understand and consent to abide by the standard written in this document. I request to be enrolled in the above counseling services.

Client's Signature _____ Date _____

Client's Signature _____ Date _____

Counselor's Signature _____ Date _____