

John R Barnhart
Brazosport Counseling Services
100 E San Bernard St
Brazoria, Texas 77422
(979) 292 - 5956

Professional Disclosure Statement

Qualifications: I am a Licensed Professional Counselor with a Master of Arts in Christian Counseling from Houston Baptist University. I also have a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology from the University of Houston. My education along with my counseling, work, family, and ministry experiences have equipped me to counsel individuals and couples from early teens through the early retirement years.

Experience: Since March 2005, I have been working with couples, individuals, and adolescents in completing a practicum and internship for state licensure. I also spent a year volunteering at Star of Hope mission providing counseling to the homeless. Most of this counseling involved homeless men with drug and alcohol addictions. Prior to being called to counseling, I worked as a supervisor and project manager in the power generation industry and had many opportunities to help employees with personal and career issues. In addition, I served many years working with youth in my home church. My ministry with the youth has provided many opportunities to provide counseling with youth and their parents.

Nature of Counseling: My approach to counseling is rooted in God's truth. I believe that we live in a fallen world that discourages healthy relationships and choices resulting in some of our suffering and pain. Our hope is God's grace through Jesus Christ, who either gives us miraculous healing, uses his servants to facilitate healing, or gives us the strength to persevere the suffering and pain. I integrate the Solution Focused Brief Therapy model into my Christian counseling approach. This approach allows me to come from a Christian perspective without excluding scientifically based counseling techniques. I believe all healing comes from Christ. Therefore, I will seek the Holy Spirit's direction through prayer and through God's word.

Informed Consent

Fees: Counseling services will be provided for a fee of \$75 per 45 minute session. If the fee represents a hardship to you, please let me know, as fee adjustments are available. The fee for each session will be due at, and must be paid by, the conclusion of each session. Money orders or personal checks made out to "Brazosport Counseling Services" are acceptable for payment. Brazosport Counseling Services does not file for reimbursement from health insurance companies. A separate fee will be charged for tests, reports, or expert testimony. As the demand for appointments often exceeds the availability, please notify Brazosport Counseling Services at (979) 292 - 5956 as soon as possible if you discover that you will not be able to keep an appointment. A late cancellation fee for the full amount of the session will be charged if less than 24 hours notice is given. Exceptions will be given for emergencies. It is my intention to render services in a professional manner consistent with accepted standards of practice. Our sessions will be 45 minutes in duration for individual counseling and 90 minutes in duration for group counseling.

Counseling Relationship: During the time that we work together, we will meet at a mutually agreed upon frequency for approximately 45 minute sessions. Although we may run into each other from time to time, it is important to remember that our relationship is professional and not social. Our contact will be limited to counseling sessions that you arrange through the counseling center. The policy of the Brazosport Counseling Services and professional counselor ethics prohibit the receipt of gifts valued more than \$50 by counselors from clients.

Effects of Counseling: At any time, you may initiate a discussion of possible positive or negative effects of entering, not entering, continuing, or discontinuing counseling. While benefits are expected from counseling, specific results are not guaranteed. Counseling is a personal exploration and may lead to major changes in your life perspectives and decisions. These changes may affect significant relationships, your job, and/or your understanding of yourself. Some of these changes could be temporarily distressing. The exact nature of these changes cannot be predicted. Together we will work to achieve the best possible results for you.

Client Rights and Responsibilities: Some clients need only a few counseling sessions to achieve their goals; others may require months or even years of counseling. As a client, you are in complete control and may end our counseling relationship at any time, though I do ask that you participate in a termination session. You also have the right to refuse or discuss modification of any of my counseling techniques or suggestions that you believe might be harmful. You agree to come to counseling free from the influences of drugs including alcohol. I also have the right to terminate our counseling relationship if I believe it is in your best interest. I assure you that my services will be rendered in a professional manner consistent with accepted legal and ethical standards. If at any time for any reason you are dissatisfied with my services, please let me know. If I am not able to resolve your concerns, you may contact the Texas Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors at 1-800-942-5540.

Referrals: Should you and/or I believe that a referral is needed, I will provide some alternatives including programs and/or people who may be available to assist you. A verbal exploration of alternatives to counseling will also be made available upon request. You will be responsible for contacting and evaluating those referrals and/or alternatives.

Records and Confidentiality: All of our communication becomes part of the clinical record. Records are the property of Brazosport Counseling Services. Adult client records are disposed of seven years after the file is closed. Minor client records are disposed of seven years after the client's 18th birthday. Most of our communication is confidential, but the following limitations and exceptions do exist: a) I determine that you are a danger to yourself or someone else; b) you disclose abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child, elderly, or disabled person; c) you disclose sexual contact with another mental health professional or member of the clergy; d) I am ordered by the court to disclose information; e) you direct me to release your records; or f) I am otherwise required by law to disclose information. If I see you in public, I will protect your confidentiality by acknowledging you only if you approach me first. Office clerical personnel will only have enough information to schedule appointments, contact you, and facilitate collection of fees. In the case of marriage or family counseling, I will keep confidential (within the limits cited above) anything you disclose to me without your family member's knowledge. However, I encourage open communication between family members, and I reserve the right to terminate our counseling relationship if I judge the secret to be detrimental to the therapeutic progress.

Emergency Contact: The limited resources of Brazosport Counseling Services prevent us from providing crisis intervention or intensive counseling. If you have a crisis after office hours, please contact your physician; call the crisis hotline at (800) 784 - 2433; or go to the nearest hospital emergency room. If a hospitalization occurs, please contact this office as soon as possible to coordinate your care.

Acknowledgment and Consent: By your signature below, you are indicating that you read and understood this statement, or that any questions you had about this statement were answered to your satisfaction, and that you were furnished a copy of this statement. By my signature, I verify the accuracy of this statement and acknowledge my commitment to conform to its specifications.

Client's Signature

Counselor's Signature

Date

Date