

Lake Arlington Baptist Church Thrive Marriage Coaching Informed Consent and Hold Harmless Agreement

Thrive Marriage Coaching

Thrive Marriage Coaching is an intentional marriage mentoring relationship designed to help both engaged and married couples build a healthier, more fulfilling marriage through connecting with a coaching couple. Coaches are not experts; rather, they are a resource – providing tools, support, feedback, strategies, and guidance to help you improve your marriage. Coached couples can choose to accept or reject coaching advice and suggestions, and can choose to end or suspend the coaching process at any time.

Thrive Marriage Coaching is part of the Thrive Marriage Ministry of Lake Arlington Baptist Church, and all coaches are active members at Lake Arlington Baptist Church. While the backgrounds, occupations, and life experiences of our coaches are varied, they have a common desire to use what they have learned from their own ups and downs to encourage and strengthen other couples. Coaches are Certified SYMBIS Facilitators (the primary resource we use), and receive ongoing training, direction and support through our marriage ministry.

Cost of Coaching

There is not a fee for marriage coaching. Thrive coaches choose to invest their time with couples free of charge. The only cost is for materials.

Coaching Goals and Strategies

There are many coaching strategies concerning marriage. It is important to discuss any questions you may have regarding the strategies suggested to you by your coaches, and to have input into the goal setting with your coaches. During the coaching process, these goals may change.

Collaboration

For the purpose of providing appropriate resources and guidance, your coaches may discuss your coaching process with coaching leadership and other coaches.

Referrals

Coaching couples may recommend you pursue professional counseling instead of or in conjunction with coaching. They may also suggest that a support group could be beneficial. You can choose to accept or reject their advice. However, since your best interest is of utmost importance to us, a coaching couple has the right and responsibility to end their coaching relationship with you if they do not believe they are adequately equipped to provide the coaching you need.

Risks in Coaching

While coaching may be tremendously beneficial, there can be some risks. These risks may include the experience of intense and unwanted feelings, such as sadness, fear, anger, guilt, or anxiety. It is important to remember that these feelings may be normal, and a natural part of the coaching process. Other risks of coaching may include: recalling of unpleasant life events; facing unpleasant thoughts and feelings; increased awareness of feelings, values, and experiences; and calling into question some or many of your thoughts, beliefs, and values. Please speak with your coaches about any questions or concerns. Do not wait on the recommendation of coaches to seek out professional help and resources to resolve conflicts, questions, or concerns.

Confidentiality

Thrive coaches will make every effort to maintain confidentiality concerning what you disclose to them. Possible exceptions to confidentiality include but are not limited to the following: abuse or neglect of minors; abuse, neglect or exploitation of elderly or disabled persons; spousal abuse; situations where, in the coaches' judgment it is necessary to warn, notify, or disclose; a negligence suit brought by the participants against coaches. **By signing this Agreement**, you are giving consent to your coaches to share confidential information with all persons mandated by law, and you are releasing and holding harmless your coaches from any departure from your right of confidentiality that may result.

Duty to Warn

A coach may take responsible action to inform medical or law enforcement personnel if the coach determines that there is a probability of imminent physical injury by a participant to themselves or others, or there is the probability of immediate mental or emotional injury to a participant. **By signing this Agreement**, you are giving consent for the coaches to warn the person in danger and to contact any person in a position to prevent harm to a participant or another person, in addition to medical and law enforcement personnel. You waive the right to confidentiality under these circumstances and agree to hold harmless the coaches, Thrive Marriage Ministry, Lake Arlington Baptist Church, and all related parties.

World-view and Beliefs

Thrive Marriage Ministry holds to a biblical world-view, and affirms the church's belief that marriage is to be the union of a man and a woman, as described in Genesis 1:27-28 and 2:18-25. For this reason, we do not coach same-sex couples. Other beliefs and values can be found on the church's website, www.labc.com, under I'm New, and in the church's constitution and bylaws (available upon request).

Hold Harmless

By signing this Agreement, you fully and forever release, acquit, hold harmless, and forever discharge Thrive Marriage Ministry, Lake Arlington Baptist Church, it's officials, agents, coaches, servants, volunteers, sponsors, employees, and all persons natured or corporate in privily with them, from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, damages, actions, cause of actions, claims of actions, whatsoever arising out of or related to participation in the coaching process, including but not limited to, actions, suits, and/or claims of bad or harmful advice, bodily injuries, death or property damage, while participating in or resulting from the coaching process. This agreement also applies to any and all meetings on or off church property.

It is your expressed intent that this release and hold harmless agreement shall bind you and the members of your family, if you are alive, and your heirs assigned and personal representatives, if you are not alive, and shall be deemed as a release, waiver, discharge and covenant not to sue Thrive Marriage Ministry, Lake Arlington Baptist Church, it's officials, agents, coaches, servants, volunteers, sponsors, employees, and all persons natured or corporate in privily with them. You further agree that this waiver of liability and hold harmless agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Texas. If for any reason legal action is taken against Thrive Marriage Ministry, Lake Arlington Baptist Church, it's officials, agents, coaches, servants, volunteers, sponsors, employees, and all persons natured or corporate in privily with them, you agree to assume any and all legal costs and expenses incurred by Thrive Marriage Ministry, Lake Arlington Baptist Church, it's officials, agents, coaches, servants, volunteers, sponsors, employees, and all persons natured or corporate in privily with them, in the event of successful defense concerning such claims, actions, or lawsuits.

We, the undersigned, have reviewed the Thrive Marriage Coaching Informed Consent and Hold Harmless Agreement, and are aware of the risks involved in the coaching process. **By signing this Agreement**, we represent that we understand this Agreement and desire to participate in the coaching process. We sign voluntarily as an act of our own free will. Thrive Marriage Coaching and Lake Arlington Baptist Church has not made any oral representations, statements, or inducements, apart from this Agreement. We are at least eighteen (18) years of age, and fully competent to execute this Agreement.

Printed Name of Male Participant

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Printed Name of Female Participant

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Printed Name of Male Coach

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Printed Name of Female Coach

Signature _____ **Date** _____