

Karen Hull

Julianna Poor Memorial Counseling Center
Houston's First Baptist Church
7401 Katy Freeway, Suite 600
Houston, TX 77024
(713) 335-6462

Professional Disclosure Statement

Qualifications: I am a Christian counselor with a Master of Arts degree in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) from Liberty University. I am also a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern working toward permanent licensing by the Texas Board of Examiners of Licensed Professional Counselors. In addition to these qualifications, I am a certified PREPARE/ENRICH engaged couples' counselor.

Experience: My background of lay ministry in the church includes many years of experience as a Bible study leader and mentor. I am also a published author; my book for young parents, *The Mommy Book: Advice for New Mothers from Women Who've Been There* (Zondervan), was featured in the Focus on the Family broadcast and magazine. My husband Jon and I have been married for more than thirty years; we have two daughters, a son-in-law, and two granddaughters.

Nature of Counseling: I approach counseling from a biblical perspective with the goal of helping individuals, couples, and families find the healing and freedom that come from actively applying biblical truth to their lives and relationships. My theoretical orientation is eclectic, incorporating primarily spiritual formation, cognitive-behavioral, narrative, family systems, and emotionally focused couple and family approaches. A brief explanation of these approaches and related techniques will be made available on request.

The purpose of counseling is to reach specific goals for individual and relational growth. Goals are mutually agreed upon by both the client and the counselor, and should be consistent with biblical truth.

Informed Consent

Supervision: Since I am under supervision, there will be times when I discuss our session material with my supervisors. Also, as part of my supervision, I may occasionally be required to audio- or video-record our sessions. This is done for educational purposes only. If you have any questions regarding this supervision information, please feel free to ask me, or you may contact my primary supervisor, Adam Mason, MAMFC, LPC-S, at 713-335-6460. Mary Ring, MAMFC, LPC-S, LMFT-S, RPT-S, serves as my supervisor for play therapy and as a secondary supervisor for certain individual and family cases. For additional consultation, I may sometimes discuss treatment plans with colleagues at the JPMCC.

Counseling Relationship: During the time we work together, we will meet at a mutually-agreed-upon frequency for 45-minute sessions. Although our sessions take place in a church setting, 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 counseling center and professional counselor ethics prohibit the receipt of gifts valued at 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 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 refer your complaints to: one of my supervisors (listed above); Dr. David Self, Executive Pastor of HFBC at (713) 957-5800; the Counseling Center oversight committee (names and phone numbers will be made available upon request); or the Texas Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors at (800) 942-5540.

Referrals: Should you or I believe 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.

Fees: Counseling services will be provided to members of Houston's First Baptist Church and students of First Baptist Academy at the reduced rate of \$40 per session. For non-members, services will be provided for a fee of \$80 per session. If the fee represents a hardship to you, please let me know, as full and partial 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 "HFBC" are acceptable for payment. The Julianna Poor Memorial Counseling Center of HFBC does not file for reimbursement from health insurance companies. A separate fee will be charged for tests, reports, or expert testimony.

Cancellation: As the demand for appointments often exceeds the availability, please notify the Counseling Center receptionist or staff at (713) 335-6462 as soon as possible if you discover that you will not be able to keep an appointment. A late cancellation fee will be charged if less than 24 hours notice is given. Exceptions will be made for emergencies.

Records and Confidentiality: All of our communication becomes part of the clinical record. Records are the property of the Counseling Center. 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 person, or disabled person; c) you disclose sexual contact with another mental health professional or 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, including in the church, I will protect your confidentiality by acknowledging you only if you approach me first. Office clerical personnel will have only 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 privileged communication to be detrimental to therapeutic progress.

Emergency Contact: The limited resources of the Counseling Center 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 (713) 228-1505; or go to the nearest hospital emergency room. If a hospitalization occurs, please contact this office as soon as possible to coordinate your care. You may leave a message for the HFBC on-call minister at (713) 957-6760. Please note: the on-call minister keeps track of hospitalizations only. He is a minister, not a trained counselor.

Acknowledgement and Consent: Please sign and date both copies of this form if you agree to the terms stated herein. By your signature below, you are indicating that you have read and understood this statement, and that any questions you had about this statement were answered to your satisfaction, and that you were furnished with 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 Name (please print clearly)

Client's Signature

Date

Counselor's Signature

Date