

**Jennifer Griffith**  
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 have a Master of Arts degree in Christian Counseling from Houston Baptist University as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in business from Texas A&M University. I have received my professional counseling license from the Texas Board of Examiners of Licensed Professional Counselors. I am also a certified PREPARE/ENRICH engaged couples' counselor.

**Experience:** I began counseling in 2007 when I started my practicum work to complete my degree and have taken periods of time off since then to raise my family. I am trained to work with adults, adolescents, and families dealing with depression, anxiety, eating disorders, identity and self-esteem issues, relationship/marital issues, and trauma. I have experience in premarital counseling and have received training in play therapy as well as theraplay. Additionally I have experience working with clients through sports-related psychological and performance issues as well as unplanned pregnancy and adoption.

**Nature of Counseling:** My passion is working in the counseling intensive environment, focusing on and listening to the movement of the Holy Spirit without the immediate time constraints that a normal counseling session can have. I also have a deep desire to work with women who have been scared by trauma and those who need to break free from the shadow of shame due to past choices, behaviors, or ways of thinking. I utilize an eclectic approach but the methodologies I most often adhere to are the cognitive-behavioral approach from a biblical perspective and EMDR. The cognitive behavioral approach utilizes techniques such as empathetic understanding, active listening, psycho-educational discussion, prayer, homework and identification of feelings. EMDR or Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing is an evidence-based psychotherapy that deals with resolving the issues associated with trauma. I find great joy in seeing the true change that can be achieved through experiencing the Father. I will work with each client to find the "best-fit" environment for therapy including mutually agreed upon goals, duration and frequency of sessions and an approach this is appropriate for each individual need.

### **Informed Consent**

**Counseling Relationship:** During the time that we work together, we will meet at a mutually agreed upon frequency. Our sessions may not always be 45 min. and the duration of the session as well as the frequency of counseling will be discussed beforehand. Although our sessions take place in a church setting, and we may go to church together, 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 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 refer your complaints to Adam Mason, Minister of Counseling Services at (713) 335-6460; 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 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.

**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 \$50 per session. For non-members, services will be provided for a fee of \$100 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. We also accept cash and credit cards. 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.

**Cancellations:** 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 given 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, 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 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 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.

**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.

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Client’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counselor’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date