

Advocacy Form

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Introduction | The next steps of Biblical counseling involve bringing in advocates to walk alongside you during this time. Simply put, an advocate is someone who loves God, loves God's Word and loves and / or cares about you.

The addition of a trusted friend, community group member or mentor has shown to increase the effectiveness of counseling significantly. They will walk alongside you through the counseling process and continue to help you after counseling is finished. Ideally the person is part of your day-to-day community, attends church at Grace Community Church and can receive an endorsement from leaders at Grace Community Church.

Before giving us information below on who you will be contacting to serve as your advocate, please read through the following information to gain a better understanding of what we mean by advocacy.

The Vital Role of an Advocate

- It is a privilege to be an advocate and stand in the gap for your friend or loved one during their time of need (Proverbs 17:17).
- One does not need extensive counseling training or schooling to be an advocate (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).
- Mutual ministry encourages growth in everyone involved (Hebrews 3:12-13).
- It is God's design to counsel in community (Galatians 6:1-2).

Responsibilities of an Advocate During Counseling | During their time as advocate, an advocate will have a variety of opportunities to learn, grow and serve. Below are some specific ways in which we will ask the advocate to serve.

- Offer intercessory prayer (Romans 12:11-12, Jeremiah 33:3).
- Provides insights and perspective for the counselor (Proverbs 18:17).
- Witness to what God is doing (Mark 2:1-12, 2 Timothy 2:24-26).
- Help the counselee apply what they are learning in between sessions (Galatians 6:1-2).
- Become a bridge for the counselee to get connected back into community (Hebrews 3:12-13).
- Decreases loneliness and isolation of the counselee (Proverbs 18:1, Hebrews 10:24-25).
- Stand as an ambassador for Biblical Soul Care (2 Corinthians 1:3-5 and 5:14-21).

Benefits to the Counselee:

- Hope and help as a friend who walks through the valley.
- Continuity of counseling and help to the counselee throughout the weeks.
- Help communicating greater context, to bring to remembrance key issues and/or remind them of truth gained while in counseling.
- Freedom to be attentive without the need to capture every detail.

Benefits to the Advocate

- Deeper insight into the life of the person they love.
- Weekly direction for conversation and accountability.
- An Opportunity to ask questions and receive insight.
- An opportunity to fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:1-2).

- A practical way to apply the “one another” commands of Scripture.
- An opportunity for further training / equipping.
- Personal growth in closing the gaps between knowing Scripture and living it.

Benefits to the Counselor

- Another perspective into life of the counselee.
- Built-in accountability for homework and application.
- Validation or clarification o heart issues.
- Help assimilating into the regular flow of discipleship at Grace Community Church.

Benefits to the Local Church:

- A person is trained to support a body member in a short period of time.
- Creates a support network for Pastors and ministry leaders.
- Built-in accountability for the church’s counseling ministry.
- A testimony of love and commitment to one another and a watching world.

I, the counselee, have read and understood the information above entitled "Advocacy."

Signature: _____

Name (Printed): _____

The person I will ask to serve as my advocate:

Advocate Name (First and Last): _____

Advocate Email: _____

Advocate Phone: _____