Consent Form

Our Mission: The mission of the Refuge is to help survivors of domestic abuse find redemption from oppression.

Biblical Basis: We believe that the Bible provides reliable guidance and instruction for faith and life. Therefore, our ministry is based on biblical principles. We utilize insights from psychology when they are helpful, but the leaders of the Refuge are not licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals.

Not Professional Advice: Some of the ministry leaders of Church Name work in professional fields outside the church. When serving within the Refuge, however, they do not provide the same kind of professional advice and services that they do in their professional capacities. Therefore, if you have significant legal, financial, medical, or other technical questions, you should seek advice from an independent professional. The leaders of the Refuge will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant biblical principles.

Confidentiality: Confidentiality is an important aspect of the Refuge. By signing below, you promise to keep all information shared during support groups strictly confidential. The leaders of the Refuge also promise to keep confidential any information you share during a support group or a private meeting. There are three situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: 1) when sharing information among leaders will enable us to better care for you and other survivors; 2) if we feel it is necessary to talk with the pastor or elders of your church; and 3) when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene (e.g. reporting a case of potential child abuse to the proper authorities). Please be assured that the leaders of the Refuge strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others.

Conflict Resolution: On rare occasions a conflict may develop between a survivor and a leader of the Refuge, and we wish to resolve such conflicts in a biblically faithful manner. Therefore, we require everyone who participates in the Refuge to agree that any dispute that arises with any agent of the Refuge (including but not limited to leaders), or with Church Name a result of the Refuge will be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries. Judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. (A copy of these Rules of Procedure can be obtained at www.Peacemaker.net.)

Agreement: By signing this consent form, you agree that you will not attempt to subpoena or require any pastor, leader, or other agent of the Refuge to appear in any legal proceeding related to any matters discussed during support groups or private meetings; nor will you attempt to subpoena any notes or records related to the Refuge or Church Name.

Having clarified the principles and policies of the Refuge, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ. If you have any questions, please talk with a leader. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Signed ___________________________ Date ________________

Print ___________________________