

# *Little Lamp Christian Counseling LLC*

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND PUBLIC SETTINGS POLICY**

### **Professional Boundaries in Social Media and Public Settings**

To comply with ethical and legal standards, the counselor serves solely in the role of “counselor” for clients. Professional ethical guidelines prohibit the establishment of dual relationships that may create conflicts of interest or compromise clinical judgment.

As such, the counselor will not engage in friendships or non-professional relationships with current or former clients, even after the termination of services. This boundary is maintained to protect client welfare, preserve professional integrity, and avoid conflicts of interest.

If the counselor and client encounter one another in a social or public setting, the counselor will not initiate contact or acknowledge the client first in order to protect confidentiality. The client may choose to initiate brief acknowledgment; however, any interaction will be limited to brief, appropriate small talk and will not include discussion of clinical matters.

The counselor does not engage in personal or direct communication with clients through social media platforms (including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter, or similar services). This policy is not personal in nature, but is in place to maintain confidentiality, uphold professional boundaries, and comply with ethical and legal requirements.

## **GIFT POLICY**

Ohio Administrative Code Rule 4757-5-03(6) states:

“Licensees and registrants should decline gifts. Gifts from a client may be considered as establishing a multiple relationship. Examples of gifts may include but are not limited to food, material goods, gift certificate/gift card, artwork or products resulting from treatment. A licensee may accept a gift of nominal value if the licensee determines that for treatment reasons not accepting the gift will result in diminishing the licensee's ability to provide appropriate client care. In accepting a gift of nominal value, the licensee must discuss with the client the ethical limitations of accepting gifts. The licensee shall have the burden of proof to explain why a gift was accepted.”

Consistent with these ethical standards, this counselor does not accept gifts from clients. In rare circumstances where a gift may be of nominal value and clinically appropriate, ethical guidelines will be followed and clinical justification will be documented.