

Crisis Care Referral Process

Our Pastoral Staff and Ministry Directors offer biblically based counseling for individuals, couples and families of Maple Grove Evangelical Free Church. After 1-2 initial meetings, with prayerful consideration and assessment, our staff will help connect people with other resources, whether it be: one-on-one discipleship, support/focus group, a mentor relationship, accountability group, Stephen Minister, professional Christian counseling, etc.

We have a list of Christian Counselors we refer to in the community. The clinic has been reviewed before sending any referrals. Although we do our very best in assuring that an individual or mental health clinic we refer to aligns with the Maple Grove Evangelical Free Church Statement of Faith, values and philosophy of ministry, it is not always possible to ensure complete agreement. An individual could decide, based on insurance coverage, to go else where or even see another clinician in the same clinic that may not be recommended. We do recommend persons seeking a counselor to carefully screen prospective counseling providers themselves as well. Some suggestions of important questions to ask the potential provider:

Licensing and Education

While a license or education does not guarantee a professional's competence or suitability for your situation, they can be indicators of their professional qualifications. There are also skilled unlicensed providers who may be in the licensure process and are under the supervision of a licensed professional or who are in the final stages of completing their studies. In addition, in most cases insurance reimbursement for mental health care is a possibility only if the provider is licensed and a certain level of education has been completed.

Professional Experience and Specialization

Ask if the provider has experience in counseling people with your specific concern. How many years have they been in practice? Is this an area of their specialty? Be advised that interns are generally less experienced, offer a lower fee, and receive supervision from a more experienced provider.

Specific Views and Integration of Christianity

Ask the provider how they integrate their Christian faith into their counseling practice. You may want to explore how they utilize the Bible and prayer in counseling. You will also want to know how they approach certain issues pertaining to your situation. (e.g. abuse, anxiety, depression, marital separation, divorce, etc.)

Fees and Insurance Eligibility

Ask about their fee and insurance reimbursement (if applicable). Some have a sliding fee scale or a minimum fee for which they will agree to provide counseling services. Know what you will be paying before beginning your counseling.

Scheduling Availability

Some providers may not be taking new clients. Some may have a waiting list. Others may have openings in a month and some can be scheduled within a week or two. Whatever the case may be, ask about their availability and if you will be able to get an appointment in a timely manner, both to get started and for subsequent appointment.