

Spiritual Coaching & Mentorship Agreement

Veterans and First Responders Ministry, Inc.

Purpose & Scope

Veterans and First Responders Ministry, Inc. provides faith-based spiritual coaching and mentorship to veterans, first responders, and community members seeking biblical guidance, emotional support, and personal development. This agreement outlines the confidentiality policies, legal exceptions, and liability waivers applicable to coaching and mentorship services provided by the ministry.

Nature of Services

- Our services are spiritual in nature and rooted in Christian principles. They are not intended to replace professional counseling, therapy, medical treatment, or legal advice.
- Not Therapy or Medical Care: Coaches are not licensed mental health professionals or medical providers.
- Not Legal or Financial Advice: Coaches do not provide legal, financial, or business consulting services.
- Faith-Based Support: All sessions are guided by biblical values and spiritual discernment.

Confidentiality Commitment

We are committed to maintaining the privacy of all participants. However, confidentiality is not absolute and may be legally breached under specific circumstances.

Confidentiality Standards

- All personal information shared during coaching sessions is treated with respect and discretion.
- Coaches will not disclose information without the participant's written consent, except as required by law.
- Participants are encouraged to share only what they are comfortable disclosing.

Legal Exceptions to Confidentiality

Confidentiality may be broken under the following circumstances, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and national coaching ethics:

- Mandatory Reporting (Massachusetts Law)
- Child Abuse or Neglect
- Elder Abuse
- Abuse of Disabled Persons
- National Coaching Ethics
- Imminent risk of harm to self or others
- Illegal activity disclosed during sessions
- Court orders or subpoenas
- Protection of minors or vulnerable adults

Participant Responsibilities

- Voluntary Participation: Coaching is voluntary and participants are responsible for their own decisions and actions.
- Understanding Limitations: Participants acknowledge that coaches are not licensed professionals and that coaching is not a substitute for therapy or medical care.
- Consent to Terms: By engaging in coaching, participants agree to the confidentiality terms and exceptions outlined in this agreement.

Data Protection & Privacy Practices

Although not bound by HIPAA, the ministry follows best practices for data protection:

- Secure storage of session notes and communications
- Limited access to personal data
- Use of encrypted platforms for virtual sessions
- Destruction of sensitive data when no longer needed

Legal Waiver of Liability

By participating in the spiritual coaching and mentorship programs offered by Veterans and First Responders Ministry, Inc., the participant agrees to the following:

- **Assumption of Risk:** The participant understands and accepts that spiritual coaching is a personal and subjective experience. Outcomes may vary and are not guaranteed.
- **No Guarantees:** The ministry does not guarantee specific results, healing, or transformation.
- **Release of Liability:** The participant releases and holds harmless Veterans and First Responders Ministry, Inc., its directors, officers, coaches, mentors, volunteers, and affiliates from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, or losses arising out of or related to participation in coaching or mentorship activities.
- **Indemnification:** The participant agrees to indemnify and defend the ministry against any claims brought by third parties resulting from their participation or actions.
- **Voluntary Agreement:** This waiver is entered into voluntarily and with full understanding of its legal consequences.

Support Group Participation & Liability Release

In addition to one-on-one coaching, participants may engage in peer-led or mentor-led support groups facilitated by the ministry.

- **Group Dynamics:** Support groups are designed to foster community, encouragement, and shared spiritual growth.
- **Confidentiality in Groups:** While participants are encouraged to respect each other's privacy, the ministry cannot guarantee confidentiality in group settings.
- **Voluntary Sharing:** Participants are responsible for what they choose to share and understand that others may retain or repeat information.
- **Release of Liability:** The participant releases Veterans and First Responders Ministry, Inc. from any liability related to group discussions, interpersonal interactions, or emotional outcomes resulting from participation in support groups.
- **No Professional Facilitation:** Support groups are not professionally facilitated therapy sessions and should not be treated as such.

Acknowledgement & Signature

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the terms outlined in this Spiritual Coaching & Mentorship Confidentiality Agreement.

I understand the nature of the services provided, the limitations of confidentiality, and the legal waiver of liability. I voluntarily choose to participate in coaching and/or support group activities offered by Veterans and First Responders Ministry, Inc.

I affirm that:

- I am participating voluntarily.
- I understand that coaching is not therapy or medical treatment.
- I release Veterans and First Responders Ministry, Inc. from any liability related to coaching, mentorship, or support group participation.
- I accept responsibility for my own decisions and actions.

Participant Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact Information

For questions or concerns regarding this agreement or coaching services, contact:

Email: john.lombardo@vfrministry.org

Website: www.vfrministry.org