

**Pastoral Prayer and Counseling Ministry
Located in Living Stones Church
Corner of Old Rt 66 & Ferdon
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-4890**

Duty to Warn

Confidentiality and privileged communication remain rights of all counseling clients according to state law. However, courts have held that if an individual intends to take harmful, dangerous or criminal action against another human being, or against themselves, it is the counselor's duty to warn appropriate individuals of such intentions, Suspected acts of child abuse or neglect and elder abuse or neglect are also required to be reported. Those warned may include a variety of such persons as:

1. The person or the family of the person who is likely to suffer the results of harmful behavior.
2. The family or the pastor of the client who intends to harm themselves or someone else.
3. Associates or friends of those threatened or making threats.
4. Law enforcement officials.
5. Social Service agencies.
6. Other medical or mental health professionals providing care for the client.

Before informing anyone who should be warned, when appropriate, the counselor will take all possible steps to first share that intention with the client. Every effort will be made to prevent any such breach of confidentiality.

I have read the above and I understand the counselor's legal responsibility to make such decisions where necessary.

Client

Date

Counselor or Witness

Date