



AWC Support Group Agreement

Upon submitting my information to Agape Wellness Collective as a prospective member of a support group, I hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. I understand that these support groups are for peer support, and are not psychotherapy groups, nor are they a substitute for psychotherapy.
2. I understand that these support groups are not for the diagnosis or treatment of any psychological or physical condition, even if they are led or facilitated by a licensed mental health practitioner.
3. I understand that these support groups are not a substitute for spiritual direction, spiritual guidance, or a relationship with a spiritual father or the Orthodox Church.
4. I agree, to the best of my ability, to be present each week for the group I sign up for, to be on time, and to remain throughout the entire meeting, unless arranged with the facilitator in advance.
5. I understand and agree that support groups are not the place for debates, polemics, or proselytism.
6. I agree to be respectful of myself and others during support group meetings in my language and actions, including but not limited to:
 - Not talking over others or having “side conversations”
 - Speaking openly/ honestly, and allowing others to do the same
 - Not being defensive or using offensive, racist, or sexist language
 - Practicing patience and mercy, and pausing before responding when needed
7. I agree to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the group by protecting the names, identities, and stories of my fellow support group members.
8. I understand that the support group facilitator and Agape Wellness Collective will also maintain privacy and confidentiality to the extent that the law allows, but that there are exceptions to this, including but not limited to:
 - A serious threat of suicide, or to harm or kill another person
 - Suspected abuse or neglect of someone under the age of 18 or over the age of 65
 - Legal court-ordered subpoenas
 - Necessary consultations between facilitators and AWC for client care
9. *I understand that neither AWC nor the facilitators provide crisis counseling services, and that if I have thoughts of harming myself or others, or otherwise am in need of immediate mental health assistance, I agree to call 911 or go to the nearest hospital, and/or make use of crisis resources, such as:*
 - **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 988 or 1-800-273-8255
 - **Crisis Text Line:** "HOME" to 741-741
 - **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Lifeline:** 800-950-6264 OR Text "HelpLine" to 62640
 - **Domestic Violence Lifeline:** 1-800-799-7233
 - **Sexual Assault Lifeline:** 800-656-4673 OR Chat at <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>