

## Participant Guidelines

Our goal is to provide a safe and beneficial experience for our clients, horses, and staff. Please review the following guidelines to help us keep our program safe, efficient and effective.

### General

- All new participants will be evaluated prior to acceptance of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy work.
- Once a participant is accepted, on-going evaluations will be determined if equine-assisted activities continue to be beneficial and our horses/staff can safely and effectively accommodate the client.
- All releases, and consent forms, must be updated annually prior to participation.
- Out of respect for other participants, please do not come through the gate more than 5 minutes prior to your session.
- Payment is due at the time services are rendered.
- Please do not bring your own pets.
- No smoking.
- Park near the barn, taking care not to block the driveway.

### Cancellations & Weather

- Cancellations made less than 24 hours in advance of session or event are subject to full fees being charged.
- If the weather is below 32 degrees or above 92 degrees, sessions may be canceled on an individual basis.
- In the event of storms, sessions may be canceled on an individual basis.

### Attire & Equipment

- Knowing that sessions take place in a farm environment and may involve a variety of outdoor tasks, all participants should dress accordingly.
- Closed toe shoes are required.
- Approved helmets must be worn ALWAYS WHILE MOUNTED.

### Grounds for Dismissal

- Any use of drugs or alcohol.
- Any possession of weapons, including but not limited to firearms and knives.
- Any action that violates local, state or federal law.
- Threats or acts of physical violence.
- Mistreatment of animals on the property.
- Acts of vandalism/destruction of property.
- Disrespect towards another person and/or animal.

# Liability Release

The Undersigned Assumes the Unavoidable Risks Inherent In All Horse-Related Activities, Including But Not Limited To Bodily Injury And Physical Harm to Horse, Rider, and Spectator. In consideration, therefore, for the privilege of riding and/or observing and/or engaging in an equine activity with Emmaus Counseling, the Undersigned does hereby agree to hold harmless and indemnify Deborah Smith and Lauren Startup and Byrdhouse Ministries, also known as the equine activity sponsors, their agents and assignees and further release them from any liability or responsibility for accident, damage, injury or illness to the Undersigned or to any horse used by the Undersigned or to any family member or spectator accompanying the Undersigned on the premises.

**“Inherent risk of equine activities” shall mean those dangers or conditions which are an integral part of equine activities, including, but not limited to:**

- (i) the propensity of any equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm, or death to persons on or around them and/or damage to property in their vicinity;
- (ii) the unpredictability of an equine’s reaction to such things as sound, sudden movement and unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals;
- (iii) certain hazards such as surface and subsurface objects;
- (iv) collisions with other equines, animals, people, and objects;
- (v) the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the equine or act within his or her ability.

I understand that it is required that I wear an approved safety helmet at all times when mounted on a horse.

**WARNING:** Under Georgia law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

If the undersigned is under the age of 18, the signature of a parent or guardian is required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

WARNING: Under Georgia law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.