

Clifford Baptist Church
Policies and Procedures Manual

Unwed Policy

Procedure:

- *Whenever the leadership becomes aware* that a female in affiliation with Clifford Baptist Church is pregnant outside of marriage, we will act immediately to extend ministry to her. A pastor and the coordinator of the mentoring ministry will meet with her (and her parents if a minor) to discuss a godly female church member to serve as a friend and mentor during the pregnancy period, and after the baby arrives. Every effort will be made to encourage this mentoring relationship for the emotional support and spiritual guidance of the mother.

- *With the acceptance of the mentoring relationship*, the mother will be offered the loving support of the congregation, and full use of any church facilities for baby showers. Anyone who would want to offer a shower ministry to the mother would coordinate the date and specifics of the shower with the mentor and mother (and parents if a minor). The Ministry Assistant will be contacted to check the church calendar for availability of church facilities.

- *Should the mentoring relationship be refused*, the church family will continue to love and minister to the mother, guiding her in Biblical principles at every opportunity. However, usage of the church facilities will not be allowed.

- **Further Suggestions**

- We should always try to match the personalities of the young lady and the mentor as closely as possible in order to foster a solid friendship.
- We should never refer to the mentor as a counselor or any other professional title due to the possible legal implications. (If the mentor was wrongly assumed to be a “professional” with all the normal training required for the title, the church could be held liable for misrepresenting the church as offering a professional service the mentors are unqualified for.)
- Every effort should be made to establish and maintain a relationship with the father of the baby. The pastors and deacons of the church could discuss ways to extend love and spiritual guidance to him.

- **Goal**

- Support and care for the young woman and her family in the best Christian tradition should always be the first priority; however some cooperation from the young woman is necessary in order that the church not appear to be celebrating something that is unsupportable biblically.