

**POLICY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
PRIEST AND FAMILIES FOR COUNSELING**

1. It is Bishop Howe's policy to pay for up to four (4) visits of any member of the clergy of this diocese, or any member of their immediate family, to one of the offices of the Episcopal Counseling Center. Note, the Episcopal Counseling Center does not inform the bishop of whom they are seeing, or why. They simply bill him. They will also work out reduced rates for members of the clergy and their families if there is a need for more than four visits.
2. Should there be a reason that you prefer to go elsewhere, Bishop Howe will pay up to one-half the cost of the first four (4) visits to the therapist of choice for any member of the clergy of this diocese or any member of their immediate family.
3. The bishop does not need to know the name of the person seeking the therapy but only a letter from the therapist.
4. We make the request - through the therapist - that the clergy file for insurance coverage and reimburse the Bishop's Discretionary Fund in the amount paid by the insurance company.
5. If after four (4) sessions the person involved feels there is real merit in continuing in therapy, and if the financial burden of doing so is a problem, then that person needs to contact the Bishop and he will do what he can to help within the limits of the Discretionary Fund.

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