

# Blessing Interview Manual

Guidelines for Conducting Blessing Interviews and  
Completing the Blessing Verification of Health Status Form

10/1/2014

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## Introduction

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidelines and support for anyone who will be conducting a Blessing interview.

The main purpose of the Blessing interview is to give each person the opportunity to report honestly about their past to God and True Parents as a condition to receive forgiveness and the Blessing. Through offering their confession during the interview applicants have the opportunity to leave their past behind and make a new start before entering the Blessing. The Divine Principle defines sin as a condition for Satan to establish a relationship with us. Offering our sincere, honest confession of any past sin removes the condition for Satan's accusation, opens the door for God's forgiveness, and renews our connection to God.

The role of the interviewer is to be a representative of God and True Parents, receiving the confession on their behalf. Interviewers have the opportunity to help each person cut off from Satan's accusation and experience liberation and freedom from guilt for any past mistakes, and a renewed connection to God. To accomplish this, it is crucial that interviewers meet each applicant prayerfully, with a heart of unconditional love and encouragement, and make every effort not to convey judgment, condescension or accusation.

Another important purpose of the Blessing interview is to ensure that the applicant is qualified to become a candidate and begin the matching process, or, if the applicant is already matched, the interview ensures that he or she is qualified to participate in the Blessing. The interview questions provide an opportunity to learn exactly where the applicant is at in several key areas. When the interviewer signs an applicant's interview form, they will comment on the applicant's readiness and fulfillment of qualifications for the Blessing. If there are any serious concerns, the interviewer will not sign the form but instead refer the applicant to a parent, pastor or professional for more guidance.

## True Parents' Guidance

*In order to receive the Blessing, the indemnity condition must be set up. If any filthy thing happened in the past, it must be washed clean. However, this cannot be done by yourself. You need help. In order to get the help of a lawyer, you need to confess everything, including your internal heart. Then the lawyer can defend you as if he himself were standing in your position. If you do not do that, you cannot receive his help.*

*I am defending you in the position of a lawyer in front of God. Therefore, you must confess to me all of the secrets that no one knows. You may think that you have worries. You must know it is a blessing that I will listen to those stories. In order to receive the Blessing, you must pass through this. Although a paper has become dirty, by using an eraser you can make it clean and white. Only by completing this condition can the Blessing be received.*

--Blessing and Ideal Family, Part 1: Section 5

*God has already forgiven us our sins. Do you think it would be possible for God to forgive us if He still thought we were sinners? He forgives us because He looks at us with endless compassion. You should know that through forgiveness, all can be united as one.*

--World Scripture and the Teachings of Sun Myung Moon, p. 320, 2.18.1972

*Great forgiveness is possible only when one understands the other person's situation one hundred percent. Because God knows our situation, He forgives us.*

--World Scripture and the Teachings of Sun Myung Moon, p. 320, 5.26.1975

# Preparation for the Interview

## 1. For the Interviewer

- a. Pray for the applicant's sincere offering, and that you can take God's position and point of view during the interview.
- b. Prepare a location for the interview that is private, safe and quiet.
- c. Set aside at least 90 minutes for an interview to allow for a heartistic connection to be made. It's important not to rush this process.
- d. Make sure you have a secure location to keep the completed confession document safe until the Blessing, and a plan to destroy it by shredder or fire after the applicant is blessed.

## 2. Guide the Applicant to:

- a. Reflect and pray in preparation for the interview.
- b. Fill out the form in its entirety prior to the interview.
- c. Communicate openly and honestly with his or her parents (if parents are involved in the applicant's matching process). The applicant may choose to get his or her parents' signatures on the final page of the form. This will indicate that the parents support the applicant's matching process. **Parents do not need to see pages 1-3 when they sign the form, unless the applicant wants them to.**

## 3. Importance of Confidentiality

Applicants need to be able to trust that everything they share with you will be kept confidential. Never discuss an applicant's confession content with your spouse, peers, parents, etc., or publicly in any way. However, in situations involving sexual intercourse, rape, addictions, suicidal thoughts, untreated mental illness, or abuse, it is crucial to report the applicant's situation to your pastor and/or help the applicant seek professional help. **If it becomes necessary to report an applicant's situation, the interviewer must get permission from the applicant first.** Sometimes it can be helpful to offer to go with the applicant to meet with the pastor or a professional. If the applicant refuses to give permission, then the only recourse for the interviewer is to not sign the form.

## 4. Importance of Sensitivity

- a. When applicants are sharing particularly sensitive or painful past experiences, such as rape, abuse, death or other situations that wounded them deeply, they may be reluctant to share certain details, especially if they have shared before. Begin the discussion by finding out if they have shared about this before, and ask if they have received professional support (from a doctor, therapist, 12-step program, etc.). If they have not shared about this before and/or have not received professional support, then it may be helpful for them to share about it in depth with you. If it seems they have resolved an issue through counseling and support, then it may not be helpful for them to share about it in depth with you.
- b. If it becomes apparent that the applicant is being evasive, or you notice gaps or unhealthy patterns as they recount their experience, it is important to use the detailed contents of the form and the supportive questions below to draw out their full experience. If they have a complicated history of past relationships, it may be helpful to construct a timeline of their relationships in order to sort them out.

# Conducting the Interview

## 1. Opening Prayer

Some guidelines:

- a. For you as the interviewer to receive the confession on behalf of God and True Parents
- b. For the applicant (by name) to be able to open their heart, report honestly and freely.
- c. For the applicant (by name) to be liberated and feel forgiveness.

## 2. Orientation

Explain the purpose of the interview and the value of confession:

- a. It is the applicant's report to God and True Parents, who are giving them the Blessing.
- b. It helps us to enter into the Blessing with a clean heart and clear conscience, and allows us to make a fresh start.
- c. It removes any condition for accusation from Satan and continued negative influence.
- d. It can liberate us from carrying bad habits, sins and guilt into our blessed life. Serious problems or ingrained habits, of course, will need more honest effort than what a confession alone can provide.
- e. Giving a confession to an actual person is helpful since God is invisible and insubstantial to us. It confronts and liberates any guilt or shame we carry, and allows us to feel God's forgiveness through that person.
- f. This confession for the Blessing is a report to True Parents. Any other experience of confessing or reporting mistakes, while meaningful, does not substitute for this confession and interview. Some people will ask, "If I participated in Foundation Day and gave a confession at that time and received God's grace through True Parents, why do I need to do this Blessing interview?" You can explain that the requirement for the Blessing interview comes directly from True Parents, and that the purpose of this interview is to provide you with the opportunity to cleanse yourself in preparation for married life. This is for you. If you attended Foundation Day, you only need to confess anything that may have occurred or continued since the date of Foundation Day, February 22, 2013.
- g. In the case of an applicant who is interviewing for a second or third time, such as an applicant who has had a previous Blessing, they only need to report things that may have occurred or continued since the last Blessing interview.

### 3. Confidentiality Statement

Emphasize that everything offered up in this interview will remain confidential. You are receiving their report on behalf of True Parents, as a condition for them to leave the past behind and begin their Blessing without any attachment to the false, sinful realm. The written form will remain with the interviewer and will be destroyed after they are blessed. Only the signature page will be uploaded to the applicant's Blessing application.

### 4. Going Through the Form

Begin to read through each question and answer together: Do not skip one word, even if you know the person well. Cover each and every question, word and example. Approach each question three times and in different ways. Be quiet and listen carefully to allow the person to speak freely and add details. Ask specific questions to discover exactly the situation and extent of any problems. **Be sure to receive the whole confession before addressing solutions to issues that come up.**

#### **Question 1: The Meaning and Value of the Blessing**

***Explain what you feel is the meaning and value of the Blessing, and why you feel ready to make an eternal commitment to your future partner.***

This refers to an applicant's understanding of the Blessing and their life of faith. To assist them in addressing these big questions, and to help you get a practical sense of where they are at, we suggest you ask questions like:

- How do you think the Blessing is different from marriage?
- What do you think is the significance of being a part of True Parents' lineage?
- How do you envision your couple expressing and living your life of faith in the future?

There are no right or wrong answers. These questions at the beginning are meant to give the interviewer a sense of the depth of the applicant's understanding and also to build rapport. This is **not** the time to give a lecture on the meaning and value of the Blessing. There are three levels of Blessing education that an applicant will receive before attending the Blessing.

## **Question 2: Sexual Issues**

***A. Did you ever engage in sexual intercourse outside of marriage/Blessing? If “Yes,” explain fully, including how often, when was the last time, and with whom (name not required). Was it a friend, classmate, church member, etc.?***

For the purposes of this interview sexual intercourse is defined as any part of the penis entering any part of the vagina. Ejaculation does not necessarily have to occur.

An applicant must be sexually abstinent for at least one year in order to qualify as a matching candidate or receive the Blessing.

***B. Did you ever engage in any other sexual activity (kissing with sexual intentions, sexual touching, oral sex, homosexuality, masturbation, pornography, engaging in phone sex or cyber porn, nudity with sexual intent, etc.)? If “Yes,” explain fully, including how often, when was the last time, and with whom (name not required). Was it a friend, classmate, church member, etc.?***

It is essential that interviewers avoid any tendency to gloss over these questions because of their personal discomfort. Applicants will benefit from the opportunity to express clearly the exact extent of any sexual contact, and the nature of any selfish or hurtful motivation that they recognize. At the same time the interview should not feel like an interrogation or passing of judgment. Ask sincerely and directly for clarity and details, such as: “Is that all? Is there any more that you want to add?” It is helpful to encourage the applicant to share the detailed experience and not just the facts.

### **Additional questions for clarification:**

These are questions that may be asked about each relationship or occurrence.

- a. What were the circumstances that led to this?
- b. What was your motivation?
- c. What was the specific extent of the sexual contact?
- d. Who was involved? (full names not required)
- e. How did/do you feel about it?
- f. Did you take any steps to resolve the situation?

**Serious issues to address at the end of the interview:**

- Abuse, either as a victim or perpetrator
- Rape, either as a victim or perpetrator
- A sexual relationship within the past year
- A pattern of unhealthy or irresponsible conduct (alcohol or drug use, anger or sexual problems, pornography addiction)

**Question 3: Relationship Issues**

***Did you ever use verbal abuse or physical violence against others, e.g.: hitting, bullying, gang activity, domestic violence, anger issues, etc.? Did you hurt others' hearts (character assassination, gossip or cyber-gossip, cheating, bullying, lying, etc.)? If "Yes," explain fully, including how often, when was the last time, and with whom (name not required)? Was it a friend, classmate, church member, etc.?***

**Additional questions for clarification:**

- a. Did you experience any types of violence in the home you grew up in? Was it between your parents or between parents and children?
- a. Do you feel you are currently working on any personal anger issues?

**Serious issues to address at the end of the interview:**

- Unresolved emotional wounds from past abuse
- Current abusive relationships
- Current angry or emotionally abusive behaviors that raise concerns about the applicant's readiness for the matching and Blessing

**Question 4: Criminal Activity**

***Did you ever commit a crime (misdemeanor or felony) or engage in illegal activity? Have you ever misused public funds? Please describe the legal and personal consequences. Include the date of the last occurrence as accurately as you can.***

**Additional questions for clarification:**

Did you ever engage in illegal activity even if you were not charged or prosecuted?

**Serious issues to address at the end of the interview:**

Current or recent patterns of criminal behavior

### **Question 5: Compulsive Behaviors or Addictions**

***Did you ever or are you now engaged in pornography, cyber porn, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gambling, violence and/or compulsive video game use? If “Yes,” explain each fully, including how often, during what time frame and when was the last time. Is this an ongoing habit? If so, what are you doing to overcome it?***

#### **Additional questions for clarification:**

These are questions that may be asked about each compulsive issue.

- a. When you say “a few times,” what do you mean?
- b. When you say “frequently,” do you mean around once a week? More or less than that?
- c. If the behavior is occurring several times a week, daily, or more frequently, ask:
  - i. Have there been times when you have tried to stop? Were you able to? How long did that last?
  - ii. Then say: “It seems like this might be more than a habit. It seems like it might be compulsive behavior. I recommend that you try to get it under control before you go to the Blessing. A lot of people think that it goes away when you start married life, but that is not the case. Please consider existing organizations that provide support for people with this compulsion/addiction. You can find a list of many of these at the national Blessing and Family Ministry website at: <http://bfm.familyfed.org/family/family-crises-support/crisis-care-resources/>. Each national organization’s website provides a list of local chapters. Healing happens locally and usually requires professional help.
- d. Is this problem linked with other compulsive issues, such as masturbation and pornography, or alcohol and violence?

***Pornography, especially when linked with masturbation, is the most common problem that our young men face.***

#### **Serious issues to address at the end of the interview:**

Current compulsive behaviors that raise concerns about the applicant’s readiness for the matching and Blessing.

Receiving the Blessing does not make compulsive behaviors disappear. It's important that habitual behavior not only be reported but addressed before seeking the matching or receiving the Blessing.

If blessed children are in the matching process at the time of the interview, it is important to discuss whether there has been full disclosure with his or her match or not. If the other family is aware of the situation, then you can sign the form.

#### **Question 6: Health Concerns**

***Do you have any psychological challenges, such as depression or suicidal thoughts, which your potential match needs to know about? Have you ever had counseling or used medication for an extended period of time? Do you have any physical or health challenges, such as infertility, blindness, deafness, structural malformation, diabetes, asthma, etc., which your potential match needs to know about? Does any family member have a history of a mental or physical hereditary condition?***

Even though an applicant may feel hesitant to reveal personal or psychological health problems, any issue that may affect their relationship or lineage needs to be reported. Any prospective partner has the right to know these issues before deciding upon a match.

#### **Serious issues to address at the end of the interview:**

None of the health concerns listed would necessarily disqualify a candidate. However, a mental health issue that is not being managed raises serious concerns and could indicate that the applicant is not ready for the marriage Blessing.

**Question 7: Before we conclude the interview, is there anything else that is on your mind or in your heart that you would like to share?**

## **5. Closing the Interview**

### **A. Address serious issues that have come up**

In order to provide the applicant with the experience of liberation and renewal, if any serious issues have come up during the interview, it is important to make a plan for the applicant to meet with the local pastor to discuss options for support, counseling and professional help.

You may also offer for the two of you to meet together with the local pastor or a professional, if it would make the applicant more comfortable.

**(Optional Guidance)**

Discuss how any serious issue that's been uncovered could impact the applicant's marriage. Express that, "When your marriage is under stress or exhaustion, things you found comfort in before marriage can be inviting." Ask:

- a. What are your stressors and what unhealthy habits have you developed to handle your stress?
- b. When you are tempted to fall back into unhealthy ways of coping, what can you do differently?
- c. What kind of support system do you have in place currently? Whom can you call for support? You can suggest the following options:
  - i. Identify three people in a vertical position that you can go to.
  - ii. Identify three church friends you can share with, and three others you can share with as well.
  - iii. Identify three younger people you can mentor to help you be your best.
  - iv. Consider utilizing your matching support team as part of your regular support system.
  - v. Once you're matched, start hanging out with other couples.

**If an applicant expresses concern about having to report honestly to their future partner, assure them that they can wait until they are in the beginning of the communication phase, and that a matching advisor can guide them as to when and how much to share.**

**(Optional Points to Cover for Blessing Preparation)**

- a. What are you doing to prepare for the matching and Blessing?
- b. Are you connecting to your local pastor and church?
- c. Have you started saving toward your Blessing offering?
- d. Have you attended Blessing education?

## **B. Emphasize Confidentiality**

State again that: Everything that's been offered in this interview will remain confidential, unless you give your permission for it to be shared. I as the interviewer am receiving your report on behalf of True Parents, as a condition for you to leave the past behind and begin your Blessing without any attachment to the false, sinful realm. The written form will remain with me in a secure location and will be destroyed after you are blessed. Only the signature page will be uploaded to the online application.

## **C. Complete the Signature Page**

It is best to give the applicant the signature page before they leave the interview, if possible. The applicant is then responsible to have the pastor sign the form and then upload it to their online application. To complete the signature page of the form:

### **a) Confirm the interview and confession by checking all three boxes, which include:**

- This applicant has remained sexually pure or has remained sexually abstinent for at least one year.
- This applicant appears to understand the meaning and value of the Blessing.
- This applicant appears to be ready to make an eternal commitment to a spouse.

**If you are unable to check all three boxes, do not sign the form and clearly explain to the applicant what is necessary in order for you to sign the form.**

### **b) Write your comments and recommendations**

- Make sure to address any issues of concern.
- If an applicant is already matched, you need to write that they are matched and the name of their match.
- If an applicant is seeking the *Cheon Il Guk* matching, in order to qualify to participate they need your written statement that they have not dated and have maintained sexual purity throughout their life.
- If they have a unique physical, mental or emotional challenge, explain it carefully and honestly without judgment.

**c) Sign the form or take the following action if appropriate:**

- Do not sign the form if the applicant is uncomfortable and unwilling to get the help necessary to address a serious issue that has come up during the interview. This is to ensure the safety and preparedness of all applicants.
- If you are not sure about signing the form for whatever reason, tell the applicant you need to consult with the national Blessing and Family Ministry before signing the form. Make sure to contact the national BFM within three days of the interview.
- If the applicant is in a matching process and a serious situation is uncovered, tell the applicant you will sign their form after there has been full disclosure with the family of his or her match.

**D. Close with a Prayer**

Some guidelines:

- a. Report that you have met the applicant for their Blessing interview.
- b. Ask our Heavenly Parent to receive the interview and confession given to you.
- c. Pray that the applicant can know that their Heavenly Parent loves them and can feel liberated by claiming God's grace and forgiveness for themselves and their future Blessing.
- d. Pray that the applicant can continue to sincerely prepare themselves for the Blessing.

## Completing the Verification of Health Status Form

To protect the privacy of candidates' personal health information and not have it stored on a data base, Certified Blessing Interviewers will complete and sign the candidate's Verification of Health Status form. The candidate will most likely bring all the paper work for this form with them to the Blessing interview or they may make another appointment with you when they have completed all the documentation for the form. Please complete the interview and prayer before you address this form.

When you sign this verification form it indicates **you have seen the documentation** confirming they have had a health exam by a physician and they have completed all the required blood tests. If the health exam or tests indicate anything that would affect their married life, fertility or lineage please circle **Special Situation** and indicate in the box for comments what question should be asked before the Blessing. For example: A family considering this candidate will want to ask about the candidate's family health history, or a family will want to ask about the candidate's health status. This very public area should not contain private or sensitive information. **Please DO NOT put your name and signature on this form until you have seen ALL the documentation for ALL health tests.**

**If the candidate is seeking to go to the Cheon Il Guk matching**, you will need to note after the physical and each test what the result was. For example; HIV circle yes and note (NEG), Health Exam circle yes write healthy with pollen allergy. You have to be able to circle Healthy on this form for the candidate to be qualified as a CIG matching candidate. A pollen allergy would not disqualify them but something like epilepsy would. All blood tests would need to be (NEG). You need to be able to write in the comment box 'This candidate as indicated by the health reports I have seen is qualified as a CIG candidate.'

When you have completed and signed the verification form, return it to the candidate so they can upload it onto their online Matching and Blessing Application. Also, return all of their medical documents for their safe keeping.

## Verification of Health Status Form

### **Purpose:**

This form ensures that the candidate has had a health exam and the required STD tests. It also serves to protect the candidate's personal health information from being compromised in any way. A BFM Certified Blessing Interviewer is needed to check the candidate's documents, record only the information asked for, and verify it by his/her signature. Careful attention to completing all the required health information will ensure the process is honest and safe for all candidates involved. Health situations only become challenges if they are not honestly reported during the process.

### **Instructions for the Candidate:**

1. This document verification must be signed by a BFM Certified Blessing Interviewer.
2. **Do not** make an appointment to meet with your Blessing interviewer for your Health Status Verification until you have **ALL** your required forms ready for them to look at together.
3. Be sure to have all your health documentation (Confirmation of Health Exam Form and your four or five blood test results) with you at the time of your Blessing interview.
4. When this form is completed and signed by your Blessing interviewer, upload it to your Matching and Blessing Application. Your Blessing interviewer's signature is proof that they have seen your health documents. Therefore, you **do not** need to include copies of these documents.
5. When this form is completed and signed by your Blessing interviewer, you will want to keep your health documents in a secure place.
6. If you are officially matched, you have the option to choose to waive your verification of health status requirements and do not need to complete this form. However, you must complete a health waiver instead.

### **Instructions for the BFM Certified Blessing Interviewer:**

1. Meet with the candidate in a private location.
2. Check the candidate's Confirmation of Health Exam Form and their four or five blood test results. All these need to be presented to you on official forms, not verbally.
3. Please be aware that a "NO" answer to any of the questions will require the candidate come back another time when they have ALL their information together before you can sign the form.
4. Your signature verifies the candidate has completed all the required health tests and an exam.
5. There is a space for your comments if needed. Please do not write private or sensitive medical or personal information here. Please indicate if the candidate is reasonably healthy according to the information asked for or that they have something that needs to be discussed during a matching process.
6. If there is a health situation of concern, you may advise the candidate to share this with their prospective match and family at the appropriate time.
7. When you have completed and signed the form, give it and all the documentation to the candidate. They will upload the form to their application and take responsibility for the safekeeping of their medical information.
8. A Health Waiver is acceptable only when the candidate is already matched. It is not acceptable for someone who is starting or in the matching process.

- Have you read the **Confirmation of Health Exam Form** or equivalent provided to the candidate and signed by a physician? (Circle the correct response)

YES

NO

Date of physical exam: \_\_\_\_\_

- Have you been presented with the results of the following blood tests? (Circle the correct response)

- |                                       |     |    |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| a. HIV/Gonorrhea                      | YES | NO |     |
| b. Gonorrhea                          | YES | NO |     |
| c. Chlamydia                          | YES | NO |     |
| d. Herpes I & II                      | YES | NO |     |
| e. Sickle Cell Anemia (If it applies) | YES | NO | N/A |

Date(s) of blood tests: \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH STATUS:**

Please tell us the health status of the candidate (Circle one of the two answers)

Healthy

Special situation to be discussed with a potential match's parents, and/or matching advisor.

This space is reserved for comments that might be necessary to explain a candidate's health situation. There should not be any private and sensitive information on this form or in this space.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of BFM Certified Interviewer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interviewer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Church Name and City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number and email address of BFM Certified Interviewer

## Appendix 1: Situations Requiring Special Grace

There are certain mistakes that can be restored only through Special Grace, like that offered at Foundation Day. Any mistake that has occurred *since* Foundation Day will need to be addressed through a *new* Special Grace. It is uncertain when such a Grace will be offered by True Parents. As such, special conditions of indemnity may be necessary. If you have a question or concern in this area, ***please contact the Blessing and Family Ministry for clarification.*** These mistakes include:

### 1. Violation of Lineage

- a) Falling after having received the Blessing,
- b) Having a sexual relationship with their spouse even after knowing that the spouse had fallen, or
- c) Falling and not confessing to their spouse.

### 2. Mistakes Specific to Blessed Children:

- a) Falling before receiving the Blessing,
- b) Falling after having received the Blessing, or
- c) Marrying another blessed child without receiving the Blessing.

Blessed children who fell before receiving the Blessing can be restored to the position of being a blessed child only by participating in the Holy Wine ceremony and Foundation Day Registration Blessing Ceremony. If a blessed child confesses to the Fall during the interview, the first question to ask them is whether or not they attended the Special Grace at the last Foundation Day. If they did, they are free to get matched and blessed, although they should disclose this to their prospective partner early on in the communication phase. If they did not attend, they will need to fully disclose this information right at the beginning of the communication phase, because they cannot resume their status as blessed children until they are forgiven, and their partner needs to be aware of this important fact.

## Appendix 2: Intergenerational Blessings

A blessed child who plans to be blessed with a first-generation member needs to know that their couple must complete the 5 step process to change their blood lineage, concluding with the Three-Day Ceremony. By doing so, they stand in the position of a blessed couple, and their children will be blessed children. Their local pastor can give them all the information they need.

## Appendix 3: Physical Closeness: What is Appropriate?

### 1) From the Unificationist Matching Handbook – for Unificationists who joined the faith as adults

#### **From the Introduction Phase of the matching process until a clear Commitment**

**Ceremony** you are getting to know each other and deciding if you have a future together. While there may be the hope of that future, this is the time to learn about yourself and each other, about your goals and aspirations. This relationship-building process is **not the same as dating**. As you come to know each other from the inside and begin to establish trust, openness and respect, there should be no physical or sexual contact at all. The best sexual chemistry flows from internal chemistry.

**After the Commitment Ceremony** you are a matched couple. Your matching should be announced publicly, at church the following Sunday or at a similar community event. You are promised to each other, and you should develop the trust and closeness of a true brother and sister; become best friends. Premature physical intimacy can undermine or short-circuit the development of genuine emotional intimacy and trust. Continue to learn about each other and begin to make decisions together. Like any brother and sister, it is natural to hold hands and greet each other with a warm hug. You should not kiss, lie down together or take any action that begins the process of sexual stimulation. This will be deeper and more meaningful when it is based upon knowing and trusting each other in the freedom of God's Blessing. Many men take this opportunity to prepare an engagement ring as an expression of their commitment. Some women prefer that such a memorable expression be delayed until it can be accompanied by their first kiss. You can discuss and decide this together as a couple.

**After the Blessing Ceremony** and the 40-day period of offering established by True Parents, your couple can begin your married life with a special Three-Day Ceremony when you feel ready. One or both of you may want additional time to deepen your trust and emotional

connection before beginning your sexual relationship with the Three-Day Ceremony. Be sure to discuss this together and come to a shared understanding and clear plan. Please get the instructions for this holy ceremony from your local pastor during the 40 days following the Blessing. We also recommend that a couple be legally married first, in accordance with the legal and social norms of your country and culture, during these 40 days.

After the Three-Day Ceremony, you are completely free to develop an intimate, loving relationship in the realm of God's Blessing based upon the respect and trust you have developed.

## **2) From the Family Matching Handbook – for members raised as Unificationists**

**After the Blessing Ceremony**, or after any additional period of offering established by True Parents for your Blessing group, you may naturally kiss, cuddle and develop a loving intimacy, based upon the respect and trust you have developed.

**Beginning Your Married Life:** Father has explained how profound and meaningful a couple's "First Night" can be. Consummating your Blessing should be a very special experience. Building internal closeness, trust and respect and coming together free of any guilt or fear is important. You will want to carefully plan for your first night together and make it special, inviting God's presence. We recommend that a couple be legally married first, in accordance with the legal and social norms of your country and culture.

## **3) Definition of Sexual Intercourse**

For the purposes of this interview sexual intercourse is defined as any part of the penis entering any part of the vagina. Ejaculation does not necessarily have to occur. It is important to note that other sexual activity, such as oral sex, does have physical, emotional and spiritual consequences.

## Appendix 4: Professional Resources

These can be found on the Blessing and Family Ministry website at

<http://bfm.familyfed.org/family/family-crises-support/crisis-care-resources/>

### Resources include:

- \* National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- \* National Alliance of Mental Illness
- \* Rape Abuse and Incest Network
- \* National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- \* American Council for Drug Education
- \* Alcoholics Anonymous
- \* AL-ANON

- \* Narcotics Anonymous
- \* Eating Disorders
- \* Addiction and Pornography Helpline

### Counseling Resources:

- \* List of Unification Counselors
- \* National Registry of Marriage-Friendly Therapists

## Appendix 5: BFM Contact Information

**Phone:** 212-997-0055

Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (EST)

**Email:** BFMadmin@unification.org

### Mailing address:

National Blessing and Family Ministry  
481 8th Avenue  
New York, NY 10001

# Blessing Interview Form

Blessing & Family Ministry, FFWPU-USA

Applicant Name (last, first) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This Blessing interview and confession is designed to help you leave your past completely behind you, receive the forgiveness and grace of God and True Parents, and enter the Blessing with a pure heart. Your Blessing is a serious commitment and a new beginning, and should have no secrets. Full disclosure of past problems is helpful for your personal renewal, and to make the condition to receive God’s forgiveness we need to report honestly. Because God is invisible it is important to confess to a physical representative of God. Answer the following questions honestly and in detail. The content of your confession will remain confidential with your interviewer. Pages 1 - 3 will stay with your interviewer, and only the 4<sup>th</sup> page of signatures will be uploaded to your application. Your interview will be destroyed once you are Blessed.

**For more space, attach additional pages and make note of the question you are continuing to answer.**

**1. Blessing:**

Explain what you feel is the meaning and value of the Blessing, and why you feel ready to make an eternal commitment to your future partner:

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**2. Sexual Issues:**

A. Did you ever engage in sexual intercourse outside of marriage? ----- No      Yes  
If “Yes” explain fully, including how often, when was the last time, and with whom (name not required).

Was it a friend, classmate, church member, etcetera?

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\_\_\_\_\_ Date of last time \_\_\_\_\_

# Blessing Interview Form

Blessing & Family Ministry, FFWPU-USA

Applicant Name (last, first) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

B. Did you ever engage in any other sexual activity? (kissing with sexual intentions, sexual touching, oral sex, anal sex, homosexuality, masturbation, pornography, engaging in phone sex or cyber porn, nudity with sexual intent, etc.) ----- No Yes

If "Yes" explain fully, including how often, when was the last time, and with whom (name not required).

Was it a friend, classmate, church member, etcetera?

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Date of last time \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Relationship Issues:** Did you ever use verbal abuse or physical violence against others, e.g.: hitting, bullying, gang activity, domestic violence, anger issues, etc.? Did you hurt others' hearts? (character assassination, gossip or cyber-gossip, cheating, bullying, lying, petty theft, etc.)? ----- No Yes

If "Yes" explain fully, including how often, when was the last time, and with whom (name not required).

Was it a friend, classmate, church member, etcetera?

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Date of last time \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Criminal Activity:**

Did you ever commit a crime? (misdemeanor or felony) or engage in illegal activity? ----- No Yes

Have you ever misused public funds? ----- No Yes

Please describe the legal and personal consequences. Include the date of last time as accurately as you can.

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Date of last time \_\_\_\_\_

# Blessing Interview Form

Blessing & Family Ministry, FFWPU-USA

Applicant Name (last, first) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Compulsive Behaviors or Addictions

Did you ever or are you now engaged in pornography, cyber porn, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gambling, violence and, or compulsive video game use? ----- No Yes

If "yes" explain each fully, including how often, during what time frame and when was the last time.

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Date of last time \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a habit? If so, what are you doing to overcome it? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Receiving the Blessing does not make compulsive behaviors disappear.  
These habits should be addressed before going to the Blessing.*

## 6. Health Concerns

Do you have any psychological challenges, such as depression or suicidal thoughts, which your potential match needs to know about? Have you ever had counseling or used medication for an extended period of time? Do you have any physical or health challenges, such as infertility, blindness, deafness, structural malformation, diabetes, asthma, etcetera, which your potential match needs to know about? Does any family member have a history of a mental or physical hereditary condition? ----- No Yes

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# Blessing Interview Form

Blessing & Family Ministry, FFWPU-USA

**“This is my full confession and explanation to the best of my knowledge:”**

Applicant’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name (last, first) \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant’s Parents’ Signature (Optional)**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation of the Interview and Confession**

I hereby confirm that:

- This applicant has remained sexually pure, or has remained sexually abstinent for at least one year.
- This applicant appears to understand the meaning and value of the Blessing.
- This applicant appears to be ready to make an eternal commitment to a spouse.

Comments and Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“I attest to having interviewed this applicant and received his/her confession.”**

Interviewer’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Interview and Confession meets the approval of:**

Applicant’s Local Pastor’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



## VERIFICATION OF HEALTH STATUS

Printed name of the Candidate:

### **Purpose:**

This form ensures that the candidate has had a health exam and the required STD tests. It also serves to protect the candidate's personal health information from being compromised in any way. A BFM Certified Blessing Interviewer is needed to check the candidate's documents, record only the information asked for, and verify it by his/her signature.

Careful attention to completing all the required health information will ensure the process is honest and safe for all candidates involved. Health situations only become challenges if they are not honestly reported during the process.

### **Instructions for the Candidate:**

1. This document verification must be signed by a BFM Certified Blessing Interviewer.
2. **Do not** make an appointment to meet with your Blessing interviewer for your Health Status Verification until you have **ALL** your required forms ready for them to look at together.
3. Be sure to have all your health documentation (Confirmation of Health Exam Form and your four or five blood test results) with you at the time of your Blessing interview.
4. When this form is completed and signed by your Blessing interviewer, upload it to your Matching and Blessing Application. Your Blessing interviewer's signature is proof that they have seen your health documents. Therefore, you **do not** need to include copies of these documents.
5. When this form is completed and signed by your Blessing interviewer, you will want to keep your health documents in a secure place.
6. If you are officially matched, you have the option to choose to waive your verification of health status requirements and do not need to complete this form. However, you must complete a health waiver instead.

### **Instructions for the BFM Certified Blessing Interviewer:**

1. Meet with the candidate in a private location.
2. Check the candidate's Confirmation of Health Exam Form and their four or five blood test results. All these need to be presented to you on official forms, not verbally.
3. Please be aware that a "NO" answer to any of the questions will require the candidate come back another time when they have ALL their information together before you can sign the form.
4. Your signature verifies the candidate has completed all the required health tests and an exam.
5. There is a space for your comments if needed. Please do not write private or sensitive medical or personal information here. Please indicate if the candidate is reasonably healthy according to the information asked for or that they have something that needs to be discussed during a matching process.
6. If there is a health situation of concern, you may advise the candidate to share this with their prospective match and family at the appropriate time.
7. When you have completed and signed the form, give it and all the documentation to the candidate. They will upload the form to their application and take responsibility for the safekeeping of their medical information.
8. A Health Waiver is acceptable only when the candidate is already matched. It is not acceptable for someone who is starting or in the matching process.



# Blessing and Family Ministry

Ministry of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

## VERIFICATION OF HEALTH STATUS

Printed name of the Candidate:

- Have you read the **Confirmation of Health Exam Form** or equivalent provided to the candidate and signed by a physician? (Circle the correct response)

YES                                      NO                                      Date of physical exam: \_\_\_\_\_

- Have you been presented with the results of the following blood tests? (Circle the correct response)

- |                                       |     |    |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| a. HIV/Gonorrhea                      | YES | NO |     |
| b. Gonorrhea                          | YES | NO |     |
| c. Chlamydia                          | YES | NO |     |
| d. Herpes I & II                      | YES | NO |     |
| e. Sickle Cell Anemia (If it applies) | YES | NO | N/A |

Date(s) of blood tests: \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH STATUS:**

Please tell us the health status of the candidate (Circle one of the two answers)

Healthy                                      Special situation to be discussed with a potential match’s parents, and/or matching advisor.

This space is reserved for comments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of BFM Certified Interviewer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interviewer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Church Name and City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number and email address of BFM Certified Interviewer



## VERIFICATION OF NATIONALITY AND VISA STATUS

Print Name of Candidate:

### PURPOSE:

This form is to protect the candidate's personal identity information from being compromised in anyway. Your local pastor will need to check your documents, record only the information asked for and verify it is accurate by his/her signature.

### NOTE TO THE CANDIDATE:

1. This document verification must be signed by your local pastor.
2. Not all documents need to be provided, only the combination of one or more that is necessary to show the country of your legal residency and birth date.
3. **Do not** include photocopies of these documents with this verification, your pastor's signature is proof that they have seen your documents and verify the authenticity of them.

### YOU NEED TO PROVIDE ONE OF THE SEVEN COMBINATIONS BELOW WHEN YOU MEET WITH YOUR PASTOR:

1. Current USA passport
2. USA Green Card and USA Driver's License
3. Current non-USA passport with a current Visa to the USA
4. USA Birth Certificate and USA Driver's License
5. USA Social Security Card and USA Driver's License
6. Current non-USA passport
7. Any other document will need explanation

**If either #1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 is not provided we will assume that the candidate has NOT long term legal residential status in the USA and is therefore in the country for a limited time period.**

### NOTE TO THE PASTOR:

1. If you have not known the candidate long, we ask that you contact their previous pastor to help you verify their situation.
2. If the candidate joined in another country, we ask that you contact the pastor where they joined to verify their situation.



## VERIFICATION OF NATIONALITY AND VISA STATUS

Print Name of Candidate:

PRINT CLEARLY FOR BEST READABILITY

Passport	Official Name on Passport or Driver's License:
Or	Country that issued the passport:
Driver's License	<i>or</i> State and/or Country for driver's license:
	Date of Birth: <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Expiration Date of document:</span>
Visa	Official Name on Visa
	From which country to which country:
	Visa Type: <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Expiration Date:</span>
Social Security Card	Official Name on Social Security Card (please no number):
Green Card	Official Name on Green Card:
USA Birth Certificate	Official Name on Birth Certificate:
Other Document	Please explain (may require more information):

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_

Local Church Name and City

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number and email address of Pastor