



## Covenant and Release of Claims

The Allender Center (“Center”) is a part of The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology (“The Seattle School”). The Center offers Story Workshop (“Program”). Your participation in the Program is conditioned on your agreeing to the terms of this Covenant and Release of Claims (“Covenant”), among other things. Please carefully review this document and contact us at [admissions@theallendercenter.org](mailto:admissions@theallendercenter.org) if you have any questions. Thank you.

## Costs

Choosing to enroll in a Story Workshop creates a financial commitment. A non-refundable, non-transferable deposit is required to secure your seat at the time of enrollment. This deposit is applied to your overall workshop fee. At the time of enrollment, you will have the option to pay in full or to choose to pay in full or in 2 installments.

## Cancellation & Refund Policy

Due to the intimate nature of this workshop it is important to thoughtfully consider the time, financial, and emotional costs of participating prior to enrolling. With limited seats available, we take seriously our responsibility to honor the integrity of this workshop and the brave individuals who participate.

Cancellations made 60 days or more in advance of the event start date will receive a refund of all monies paid, less a \$50 cancellation fee. Cancellations made 30-60 days in advance of the event start date will receive a refund of all monies paid, less the non-refundable and non-transferable enrollment deposit. Cancellations made less than 30 days before the event start date are not eligible to receive a refund, and all monies paid are non-refundable and non-transferable.

If you choose to cancel your enrollment, please notify us in writing by sending an email to [programs@theallendercenter.org](mailto:programs@theallendercenter.org).

## Payment Policy

If fees are not paid in full by the start of the workshop, you will not be able to participate. The Allender Center at The Seattle School reserves the right to pursue payment in full of the amounts owed using any lawful means it deems appropriate. This may include involving a third party agency. Administrative and/or collection fees permissible by law are the responsibility of the participant. Certificates of completion will not be issued until balances are paid in full.

## Release of Claims

### **1. Content and Risks**

I have read about the purpose and content of the Program by reviewing the information at [theallendercenter.org](http://theallendercenter.org). I understand this Program is designed to help improve my understanding of how to help those dealing with issues of trauma and abuse. While the Program has certain hoped for outcomes, I understand The Seattle School does not guarantee that I will experience all of the possible outcomes, which depends in part on my participation and the extent of my exploration of my own story. I understand the Program involves the exploration of my own story, including writing a story from my childhood, and the stories of others in the Program. The content of these stories may involve disturbing material. I also understand that by participating in the Program, I may discover and share about my own trauma and abuse, and this may be very upsetting to me. I also understand the Program facilitators, teachers, and other participants may reflect or comment on my own story of my trauma and abuse in ways that I find disturbing or upsetting (for example, their conclusions may be different from the conclusions or the story I have held as true). I understand the risks involved in participating in the Program. I have adequately dealt with my personal issues, and I am mentally, emotionally, and psychologically healthy enough to participate in the Program. If at any time I do not believe I am mentally, emotionally, or psychologically healthy enough to continue to participate in the Program, I will withdraw from the Program and take care of myself. The Seattle School and Program Releasees (defined below) are not responsible for the costs I incur to take care of myself. No refunds are allowed, except according to The Seattle School's refund policy for its programs.

### **2. Sharing; Confidentiality; Removal**

2.1 I will be assigned to a small group as a part of the Program. I understand the importance of participating in my small group discussions. I also understand that small group participation is a major part of the Program. I will share my personal information and story in my assigned small group, which may involve sharing about my own abuse or trauma. However, I will only share what I determine is appropriate and beneficial for me to share. I am solely responsible for my setting my own boundaries and taking care of myself during the Program, including the small group work.

2.2 Because others in my small group will be sharing personal information about themselves, I will keep confidential all personal information I learn about those in my small group, including their names and any information they might share about themselves during the small group work. I will not share that personal information about those participating in my small group with anyone outside my small group, except as required by law. In other words, although I will



not be acting as a therapist or a lay counselor for those in my small group, I will keep confidential the information I learn in my small group as if I heard it from a client or lay counselee in a confidential counseling session.

2.3 The Allender Center may bar me from participating in a Program (whether before or during the Program) if The Allender Center determines, in its sole opinion, that my participation would not be in my interest or the interest of The Seattle School, The Allender Center, or Program participant or facilitator. I will fully cooperate with The Allender Center to provide any information it reasonably requests to make its determination, including participating in any interview. The Seattle School and The Allender Center do not owe any obligation to me or any other Program participant or facilitator to make determinations about whether or not I should participate in the Program or whether or not it is in my interest to do so. If the Allender Center bans me from the Program, I will receive a full refund of amounts I paid toward the Program Fee, excluding the application fee and the enrollment deposit. I am not entitled to a refund or reimbursement of any other amounts (including travel costs).

2.4 I will keep confidential all information I see or hear in the recorded counseling sessions that are shown for training purposes during the Program.

2.5 I may be removed from the Program if I do not pay the tuition and fees when due. I may also be removed from the Program if The Seattle School, in its sole discretion, determines that my continued participation in the Program or my small group is disruptive to the learning environment. If I am removed from the Program for being disruptive, I understand The Seattle School will not refund fees, deposits, or travel and other expenses I paid to participate in the Program.

### **3. Medical Consent**

I grant The Allender Center at The Seattle School permission to call 911 for medical emergency aid or to take me to a hospital or physician for medical treatment, or both, if any employee or agent of The Seattle School believes I require medical care. I assume responsibility for all medical, rescue, transportation, and other expenses incurred on my behalf. Without limiting this permission or my assumption of responsibility for all associated expenses, I agree The Seattle School, the Center, Dr. Allender, or the other Program educators or facilitators may call 911 or take me to a hospital emergency room or a physician if I express any suicidal ideation or any intent to harm myself or others, or if any of them believe I may be a danger to myself or others. Nothing in the Covenant requires The Seattle School, the Center, Dr. Allender, or any other Program educator, facilitator, agent, or volunteer to take any action on my behalf.

### **4. Waiver and Release of Claims**



4.1 The following terms have the following definitions:

(A) “Claim” means any claim, damages, fee (including attorneys’ fees), cost, expense, and other liability.

(B) “Program Releasees” means The Seattle School and its former, current, and future trustees, officers, employees, contractors, and other agents, including Dan Allender and those providing instruction or small group facilitation for the Program.

4.2 I hereby release the Program Releasees from and against all Claims, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, and whether existing now or arising in the future, that are related to my participation in the Program, including Claims related to my withdrawal or removal from the Program. This release of Claims is binding on me and on any person who asserts any Claim through me or on my behalf. This release of Claims does not apply to any Claim against a particular Program Releasee to the extent the Claim is caused by the gross negligence or intentional misconduct of that particular Program Releasee. This release of Claims does not apply to any Claim I might have against The Seattle School regarding my right to a Program if I satisfy the terms of the Program and pay all required tuition and fees, my right to appeal any grade, my right to any tuition refund, or any violation of any applicable law prohibiting The Seattle School or other Program Releasee from engaging in any unlawful discrimination or releasing information in violation of FERPA. I waive any rights I have under the California Civil Code section 1542 and any other similar statute that limits the release of Claims to those Claims that I know of or suspect might exist at the time I sign this Covenant. I am releasing unknown and unsuspected Claims, which if known to me now, might materially affect my decision to participate in the Program or sign this Covenant.

## **5. Governing Law, Venue, and Personal Jurisdiction**

This Covenant is governed by the laws of the State of Washington, except for its conflict of laws provisions. Venue for any action to enforce the terms of this Covenant is in King County, Washington. I hereby subject myself to the personal jurisdiction of the federal and state courts located in King County, Washington.