

How to handle mental health expenses. Finance & WSRS

The following guidelines are to assist Priesthood leaders in providing financial assistance for counselling services to members of their ward. *If there are additional questions, please refer to your presiding authority or the local unit support team.*

When should a Bishop provide funds for pre-mission evaluations?

At the request of a bishop or stake president, free pre-mission evaluations are available to prospective missionaries who experience social and emotional issues. The pre-mission assessment is performed by a licensed counsellor. In the Europe Area this service is paid for using Fast Offering funds. See <https://providentliving.churchofjesuschrist.org/lds-family-services/missionary-services?lang=eng>

Are missionaries returning home early eligible for counselling services.

Missionaries who return home early and missionaries transferred to a service mission due to emotional challenges may receive up to six free counselling sessions. In the Europe Area these expenses are covered using fast offering funds. See <https://providentliving.churchofjesuschrist.org/lds-family-services/missionary-services?lang=eng>

Can Church Funds be used to pay for counselling services?

Bishops can refer members who need counselling to a list of reputable professional counsellors. If members are unable to pay for professional counselling on their own or through insurance, bishops have the option of assisting with payments using fast offering funds. Before providing Church assistance, the bishop (or another leader or member he assigns) reviews with the member(s) what resources they are using to meet their own needs. This person may suggest other resources for the member(s) to consider, including resources offered by government or community sources. See General Handbook of Instruction sections 22.3.4, 31.2.6 and 22.4.1.

Are there financial limits for counselling services?

When bishops use fast offerings to help pay for medical, dental, or mental health care, expenditures are not to exceed the approved limits. Currently, Bishops can approve up to 5,000 USD per case in the Europe area. See General Handbook of Instruction sections 22.5.2.1

Bishops should exercise good judgment and seek spiritual direction when considering the amount and duration of the assistance given. They should be compassionate and generous while not creating dependence. See General Handbook of Instruction 22.5.2.1 & 22.4.2

When a Bishop agrees to pay a portion of counselling service costs, how are the payments made?

The member pays the invoice in full, then provides a proof of payment to the bishop to receive a partial reimbursement through the Ward. The finance clerk needs to state in the description field that this is a partial payment.

Can a Bishop pay for counselling services for members outside his ward boundaries?

Bishops are limited to provide financial assistance to only members of their ward. If an individual changes wards, they need to visit with their new Bishop to receive assistance for counselling services.

Can a Bishop pay for counselling services outside their country?

When a member has limited or no counselling services available, the member may choose to use a counselling service outside their country. If this occurs, the member is required to pay for the services and then the Ward will reimburse the counselling service medical cost.

When a member cannot pay the counselling services invoice, how is the invoice paid?

The member brings the invoice to the Bishop, who authorizes the payment of the invoice directly to the counselling service provider. See [LCR Help Center](#) (where ever possible, payments should be made to providers of goods and services rather than to the person being assisted or to other individuals).

What expense category should counselling services be assigned to?

Bishops should use the “medical” category for counselling services.

To whom does the invoice need to be issued to?

Medical invoices should always be issued to the individual. The Bishop or Church entity should not be included on the invoice.