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Parenting Coordination Contract

PRINCIPLES

1. The parents acknowledge that their child(ren) will benefit from a meaningful relationship with both parents, that parental conflict will negatively impact their child(ren)'s adjustment, and that every effort should be made to keep the child(ren) out of the parents' disputes.
2. We understand that it is in the child(ren)'s best interest when parents do not engage in conflict. To that end, we will attempt to resolve our issues in a mutually satisfactory manner between ourselves whenever possible. If issues cannot be resolved between us, either one of us may request the assistance of the Parenting Coordinator (PC) who shall engage in a process to help us resolve disputes.

ROLE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE PARENTING COORDINATOR

1. The role of the PC is to assist both of you in resolving conflicts in a manner that is beneficial to your child(ren). What is in the best interest of your child(ren) will remain the primary focus. You may have enlisted these services voluntarily or may have had such services stipulated by the court. Regardless, it is understood that your PC cannot change the legal custody status of the child(ren).
2. The PC may provide individual consultation, coaching or education to the parents, at the discretion of the PC.
3. The PC may speak to the child(ren) and may contact third parties, including but not limited to therapists, teachers, coaches, doctors, other medical care providers, caregivers, employers or attorneys and to review any relevant documents.
4. The PCs at Bluegrass Family Therapy have knowledge and experience in the areas of child development, family systems theory and dynamics, the effects of separation/divorce on child(ren), adolescents, and adults, high conflict families, and psychological functioning, from which the parents may benefit. Notwithstanding, the PC is not functioning as a psychotherapist, marriage and family therapist or clinical social worker for either of us, our family, or our child(ren).
5. The parents understand that the PC is not a lawyer and will not be providing legal advice.

THE PARENTING COORDINATION PROCESS

1. The parents agree to utilize the PC to assist them in resolving conflicts that may arise from the implementation of their court orders/parenting plan in a manner consistent with the child(ren)'s best interest and that attempts to minimize parental conflict.

2. Throughout the course of serving as your PC, a parenting coordination agreement (PC Agreement) will be created and maintained which describes the progress and any agreements the parents have made. Copies of all PC Agreements and reports will be forwarded to both parents and to your respective attorneys (unless otherwise requested), and to the judge, if required.
3. This Contract cannot cover all the particulars that may arise in every situation. The parents agree that the PC may need to establish new rules and guidelines to fit the parents' unique relationship. The fundamental principles governing all rules and guidelines are (a) conflict for the parties will be minimized and (b) recommendations will be made in the best interest of the child(ren).
4. Appointments with the PC may be scheduled at the request of either parent or of the PC. All parties agree to make a good faith effort to be available when an appointment has been requested.
5. Whether appointments will be held jointly or individually will be at the discretion of the PC. It is understood that sessions where both parents are present are the norm, except in cases whereby direct contact is prohibited by court order.
6. The parents understand that any threat of harm toward the other parent, direct or implied, will result in the immediate termination of PC services and will be reported to the court when appropriate. Additionally, any threat, implied or otherwise, directed at the PC, will also result in immediate termination of PC services and will be reported to the court as such.
7. If the PC deems him/herself no longer able to work with either parent in a productive manner, the PC shall provide each parent with five (5) days written notice and shall notify the court and counsel in writing and request that the appointment be terminated. In that event, the PC may suggest the names of other potential parenting coordinators to the parents.
8. The PC's services may be terminated by agreement, provided, however, it shall be the responsibility of the parents to have a court vacate the appointment (if court-ordered) prior to termination of services. If one parent wishes to terminate the services of the PC and the other parent does not agree, an order of the court is required to vacate the appointment.
9. Parenting Coordination is not a crisis service. Therefore, you will be expected to schedule appointments in advance. Appointments will be held during regular business hours.
10. Agreements reached by the parents shall be drafted by the PC and provided to the parents in draft form for their approval via email. Any disparity in wording shall be resolved by the PC, however, agreements reached in session will be implemented from the session forward. No changes to, or retraction of, agreements reached will be permitted once the session has ended.

CONFIDENTIALITY

1. Parenting coordination is NOT a confidential process. The PC will initially meet separately with each parent for the purpose of, among other things, screening the parents for the suitability of the process, including but not limited to, violence and power imbalances.
2. All previous or current therapists for the parents and/or child(ren), attorneys, judges, and/or previous or current evaluators are authorized to exchange information with the PC. Any other professionals that work with the child(ren) or parents are authorized to exchange information with the PC, including but not limited to, current employers, school teachers, coaches, physicians, other medical providers, and other family members. The PC may disclose to the parents all or any part of any information received from third parties, the other parent, and the

child(ren). The parents agree to promptly complete, sign and return any and all releases for information that third parties may require to exchange information with the PC.

GRIEVANCES

1. Either parent who has a grievance regarding the way the PC is dealing with him/her or any issue, he/she (and with their lawyer if they prefer) shall discuss their concern in person with the PC before pursuing it in any other manner. If, after discussion, the parent is not satisfied that the grievance has been dealt with satisfactorily, then he/she shall submit a written letter detailing the grievance to the PC, to the other parent and to any lawyers representing the parents and/or child(ren). The PC shall provide a written response to the parents and lawyers within twenty (20) days.
2. The PC shall then meet with the complaining parent and his/her lawyer to further discuss the matter.
3. If the grievance is not resolved after this meeting, the complaining party may file a motion with the court to vacate the PC's appointment. The court shall determine if the PC should be replaced.

FEE ARRANGEMENT

1. Scheduled parenting coordination appointments may NOT be canceled or rescheduled by a parent except in the most extreme circumstances or by mutual consent of the parents. The parent who cancels or reschedules a session will be responsible for the full session fee, as well as all charges incurred in the handling of the cancellation or rescheduling, including but not limited to time expended for phone calls and emails to and/or from the other parent and for communication with attorneys and/or the judge.
2. We agree to pay the PC at the rate of \$200 an hour, with the PC reserving the right to assess costs disproportionately, unless otherwise specified by court order.
3. The Bluegrass Family Therapy Fee Agreement is incorporated herein by this reference.

SIGNATURES

Both parents:

- Have read or had the opportunity to read this Contract in full in the presence of the PC;
- Consent to all of the above terms of service; and
- Acknowledge that this Contract is a legally binding agreement.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Parenting Coordinator

Date