

**Karen Giordano-Brenghause, MS, LMFT**

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist No. 35077

Private Child Custody Evaluator · Private Child Custody Recommending Counselor · Therapist

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**Private Child Custody Recommending Counseling (CCRC) and 3111 Evaluation Process**

The CCRC/3111 Evaluation process is also referred to as private mediation. The process is below:

1. I will need a copy of the court order (which has likely been received if I am sending you this information) and the retainer (payable by certified check or cash). Because I am not at my office every day, I would appreciate an email alerting me when you have mailed the retainer check.
2. Fees are based on a rate of \$150 per 60-minutes and a \$1,500 retainer. Please pay the retainer with a certified check; personal check or cash will suffice thereafter. For payments with a credit card, there is a \$25 service fee for each transaction.
3. For planning purposes, please note that the retainer is held in reserve for the written report and any work completed when you are not in my office, such as telephone calls, reading documents, etc. **The \$1,500 retainer is NOT the total cost of mediation.**
  - a. **Session fees are payable as we proceed or in advance.** Session fees are NOT taken from the retainer. I conduct mediation sessions with both of you, together, for two 60-minute sessions (\$300 per meeting). When one of you brings your child, the meeting is about 60 minutes (\$150). Your court order indicates who is responsible for the payment; father, mother or shared by both.
  - b. **The total cost for mediation is unclear at this time.** Please read the "**Mediation Contract**" and an "**Estimate of Fees for Mediation**", which I am also sending to you. Mediation is unique to each family and specific number of meetings cannot be assured in advance. I will attempt to keep you informed to the number of meetings required as we proceed. **Any unused portion of fees paid in advance shall be returned 90 days after the report is filed with the court.**
4. Once the retainer and court order are received, I will schedule the first appointment with you. This is generally accomplished best by email.
5. **All communication I have with you needs to be transparent to both of you. Therefore, please use "reply to all" on your return email to me, keeping the other parent informed of any correspondence.** This is a means for me to maintain neutrality during this process. If one of us realizes the other parent was inadvertently left off of an email communication, please forward it immediately and I will do the same. Thank you.
6. Sessions are conducted by Zoom or in person. My office is located near Arden Fair Mall, 1555 River Park Drive, Suite 206P, (Second Floor), Sacramento, CA 95815.