

# The Parenting Institute

2121 Noblestown Road | Suite 109 | Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Phone: (412) 928-2299

## Consent for Counseling

I give my consent to engage in Reunification Counseling. I understand that the process is a collaborative, child-centric process and that results cannot be guaranteed. I understand that I may withdraw from treatment at any time. Treatment is confidential and unless I give my written consent to release information, such information will not be disclosed to anyone except as stated herein. The following circumstances, however, are exceptions. I understand the following exceptions may apply:

- If a client communicates to a therapist a serious threat to harm an identifiable person, the therapist must warn that person and the police; and
- If the therapist suspects child abuse or neglect, or abuse of a dependent adult or of a person over the age of 65, a report must be made to the appropriate agency; and
- If a client presents a danger to self or other, or is unable to care for him or herself, a report must be made to the appropriate authorities.
- If a client consents to release of information or a court order for same, the therapist may communicate with the court or other professionals identified in the release or consent order.
- If a GAL (Guardian ad Litem) is involved in my case, I understand he or she may communicate with the counselor about the case progress.
- If the case is court-involved, the counselor may report to the court regarding case progress, appointments, cancellations, attendance, case prognosis.
- If the parties consent, the therapist may consult with other professionals such as therapists, counselors, social workers, physicians, psychologists, and the like.

Counseling is a non-evaluative process, focusing on improving a specific relationship or relationships. I understand that for this process to be effective, all legal parents and/or guardians must be part of the process. Although most sessions will involve the child(ren) and reunifying parent, there will likely be sessions required for the non-reunifying parent, joint and individual. Parties agree not to request the Counselor to testify in court or to produce any information, notes, records, files, or the like relating to the case including those pertaining to their minor child/children. Counseling communications are privileged and cannot be used as evidence in court, including but not limited to notes, emails, phone calls, and correspondence between sessions. If for any reason, the Counselor is called to testify or provide evidence on behalf of a party or parties hereto, the party or parties causing same will pre-pay all of Counselor's costs, hourly fee, and expenses (\$300 per hour / 4 hour minimum).

**For virtual (online or telephone) sessions, client waives confidentiality insofar as the Internet is not secure, and counselor cannot guarantee security thereof. For Internet and telephonic meetings, parties understand that the counselor cannot monitor their location and surroundings that impact confidentiality and privacy. Counselor cannot guarantee**

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**privacy or confidentiality thereof. Parties agree that all telephonic and Internet sessions shall be conducted in a private room without the ability of any third parties and/or children to hear or see any part of the adult sessions. If a virtual session is conducted for a child, the adult in charge ensures privacy between the child and Counselor and guarantees the child shall be alone and not within seeing or hearing distance of anyone.**

The fee per 50-minute session is \$\_\_\_\_\_, due at the time of the service. I agree to give 24 hours' notice when canceling a session; and without such notice, I agree to pay in full for the session missed.

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