

Parenting Consultation Informed Consent

Parent Consultant Assignment:

Your case has been assigned to Benjamin J. Albritton, Psy.D. by agreement or court order.

Parent Consultant Qualifications:

A Parent Consultant is a licensed mental health professional who has received specialized training in the dynamics of domestic violence and resolution of high conflict divorce and family issues.

Responsibilities of Parent Consultant:

Parent Consultation is short-term solution based coaching that finds solutions to the practical problems of co-parenting.

1. The Parent Consultant has full discretion regarding program implementation under the laws of the state of Texas and as ordered by the court.
2. The Parent Consultant works as a neutral and objective party to assist both parents in resolving conflict in the best interest of their child(ren).
3. The Parent Consultant coaches and educates as needed.
4. The Parent Consultant may be called upon as necessary to assist the family with any new conflicts until the child(ren) is (are) 18 years old.

Parent Consultation Meetings:

1. The Parent Consultation process begins with a minimum of one individual meeting for each adult and one for the child(ren).
2. After the individual meetings are completed, the parents will begin to meet jointly. These joint meetings are usually held until the parents and the Parent Consultant agree that the process is complete.
3. In order to be in compliance with the court or professional standards, a minimum of two appointments must be attended in a month.
4. While the child(ren) is (are) under age 18 years, parents may return for appointments as they encounter further conflict as the child grows up.
5. The Parent Consultant will schedule joint and individual meetings based on the unique needs of the families.
6. Extended family may be asked by the Parent Consultant to attend any joint meetings if their attendance in the opinion of the Consultant will help to resolve conflict with the case.

Communication:

Communication is first and foremost face-to-face. Telephone consultations and individual meetings will be made at the discretion of the Parent Consultant. Email is only used for short responses, scheduling purposes, or as otherwise indicated in the agreement documents.

Confidentiality:

Parent Consultation is NOT therapy and it is NOT a confidential process.

The taping of meetings is not allowed unless specifically agreed to by all parties.

Initial _____

Litigation:

Participation as a witness in court action and/or subpoena of the Parent Consultant's records is possible. There is a required retainer fee of \$300 per hour, \$1,300 per half day, and \$2,500 per full day.

Reports:

In Parenting consultation, no formal evaluative report will be produced. Conversations with attorneys may be held and the parties will be notified in advance of such discussions. Parents are required to pay for all fees for written memos including the fees for the final summary report prior to the conclusion of the program.

Complaints:

If a parent has a complaint about their Parent Consultant, or he or she is dissatisfied with the performance of the Parent Consultant, then he or she is encouraged to work to resolve their differences with that Consultant. The following steps are to be taken in dealing with complaints:
Step 1: The parent will request an individual session with the Consultant in an attempt to work through the difficulties.

Step 2: The parent will put their complaint into a written summary of one page or less and submit it to Benjamin J. Albritton.

Step 3: Dr. Albritton will hold a consultation meeting with the complainant and the Consultant to resolve the issues. This meeting will be held at the complainant's cost.

Step 4: The parent may request that the court appoint another Consultant.

Conclusion:

The Parent Consultation process maybe concluded in the following three ways:

1. The process is successful and the participants agree that further meetings are not needed.
2. In the opinion of the Parent Consultant, the process is not working due to noncompliance by one or both of the parents. The Parent Consultant will tell the court and the attorneys that the process is not working and will not continue.
3. The Parent Consultant withdraws because of concerns for the safety of any participant.

Program Costs:

A retainer of \$2000 is expected from each parent to initiate the process of Parenting Consultation. A minimum of \$2000 of the retainer is required to be kept on balance at all times. At the conclusion of the joint sessions and after all paper work has been submitted, the remainder of the retainer will be reimbursed to the parties.

Subsequent payments are made with either cash or check and are due at the beginning of each session. Checks are made out to Benjamin Albritton, Psy.D., P.C. If payment is not made, the session will be rescheduled. Payment for the canceled visit will be paid by the parent or parents in non-compliance and will be for the entire session fee. Parents will be provided with an itemized copy of their bill each session. If a \$2000 balance is not maintained, the party will be suspended from joint sessions until the balance is paid.

Except in the case of emergency, all appointments must be cancelled a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. It is the canceling party's responsibility to reschedule meetings that have been cancelled. If an appointment is cancelled within 48 hours of the scheduled visit, the entire appointment fee will be charged to the canceling party.

Each Parent's Fee* Schedule Includes:

\$225 Individual Parenting Consultation Meeting (45 minutes)

\$300 Individual Parent Consultation Meeting (one hour)

\$75 Per quarter hour: Telephone Consultations with parent/guardian or professionals during business hours. Scheduling calls will not be charged.

\$75 Per quarter hour: Review of case materials and preparation of written memos and reports.

\$20 Returned check fee. Doubles with each additional item.

\$225 Child Fee. Child or Family session (45 minutes)

* unless the Parent Consultant is provided with a certified copy of the divorce decree or order that states otherwise. If the judge's order to participate in the program stipulates that only one parent be financially responsible and the co-parent cancels without 48 hour notice, the canceling parent is responsible for that charge.

If one parent insists that the Parent Consultant read extensive reports and the Parent Consultant agrees to do so, this parent alone will pay for the time involved.

I have read and understand the above informed consent and agree to its terms

Client Signature

Date

Parent Consultant