

## REINTEGRATION THERAPY - TEAM APPROACH CONTRACT

Reintegration Therapy - Team Approach is a court-ordered therapy that serves to reunify a parent with their child/ren and enable the child/ren to go back and forth between parent's homes comfortably. The goals of Reintegration Therapy are to attend to issues responsible for the initial breakdown in the parent-child relationship; facilitate co-parental civility and respect through understanding the dissolution of trust; identify and diminish co-parental hostilities; and establish healthier parent-child relations and family balance. Each member of the immediate and blended family will play an essential role in reintegration therapy.

### **Procedures:**

The Court Order may outline procedures of reintegration therapy and type of feedback to the Courts by the therapist/s. Please review your Court Order.

In this program, your family will work with at least two therapists that will perform specific therapeutic tasks to follow Court's Order. Each parent separately will be seen and then each child separately.

After the one-on-one meetings, then the team will decide best treatment options and discuss this process with you. Parties understand that at the beginning of this treatment, there will be a higher frequency of sessions up until the child is able to successfully be with the parent in office.

Even though only one parent is struggling to have contact with the child/ren, both parents need to cooperatively and actively be involved in the treatment. You and your child's physical and emotional safety is of utmost importance to this process and is always considered in the development of the treatment course.

Relevant documentation will be reviewed, and collateral contacts may be contacted.

During the reintegration therapy, we may make recommendations for the adults and/or children to have sessions of directed therapy with another clinician to facilitate the reintegration process. Directed therapy signifies that we will task that therapist with issues that need resolve, confer with the therapist and the therapy is typically 6- 8 sessions. Parties are to follow these recommendations, as they are part of the reintegration work.

### **Stipulation and Order:**

You will provide Dr. Sue Tonkins and therapist \_\_\_\_\_ a Stipulation and Agreement/Court Order ordering reintegration therapy - team approach. This order will have been filed with the court prior to involvement in this matter, beyond initial inquiries as to services. You agree to all provisions in that order and this contract. The reintegration therapists as ordered by Court have quasi-judicial immunity, as such, cannot be sued based on their actions in this matter.

Should there be issues of adherence to the treatment plan, the therapist may advise the Court of the issue with recommendations for remedy.

**Limits of Confidentiality:**

Reintegration therapy - team approach, when ordered by the Court, is a non-confidential process. Any or all notes, electronic correspondence, observations, and recommendations may be disclosed to the court by the reintegration therapists. They will not be disclosed to the parties without a Court's order. Additionally, all parties need to sign all releases requested by the therapists that are necessary to obtain reports from relevant professionals (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker's, teachers school officials, pediatricians, hospitals etc.). This includes past records as well as current records.

As mental health professionals, we are mandated reporters and as such there are some situations (not all listed) where we are legally obligated to take action to protect and share information about treatment. For example, if we believe that a child, elderly person, or disabled person is being abused, we must file a report with the appropriate state agency.

If you and/or a family member/significant other report to us that you have stated a threat of serious bodily harm to an identifiable person, we are required to take protective actions which include notifying the potential victim, contacting the police, and/or seeking hospitalization for you. If you threaten to harm yourself, we may be obligated to seek hospitalization for you or to contact family members who can help provide protection.

On a regular basis we have peer supervision and consult with a team of professionals about cases. During a consultation, we make every effort to avoid revealing the identity of the patient. The consultant is also legally bound to keep the information confidential. If you don't object, we will not tell you about these consultations unless we feel that it is important to our work together.

**Fee Policies:**

Hourly fees are \$275 and include: interviewing collateral contacts, appointment cancelled without 48 hours advance notice, preparing reports, copying files, telephonic, facsimile, or electronic correspondence. Court appearances, preparation for court, and travel to and from court are billed at a rate of \$400 an hour with a minimum of five hours. A subpoena to court must be received a minimum of seven business days in advance of the court date. Upon receipt of the subpoena, that date of appearance is reserved. Even with retraction of subpoena or in the case my presence is not required, minimum payment will still be processed.

Because there will be multiple therapists, each therapist will keep their own accounting. You will need to provide a retainer and credit card on file with each provider. Each reintegration therapist requires a retainer of \$1375 to commence treatment. It can be paid by credit card, Zelle or valid check.

After commencement of treatment/work when the retainer goes down to \$500 it needs to be replenished by \$1375 to both therapists. Therapists have the right to suspend work if fees are not up to date or may seek the court's assistance in collection of delinquent fees.

There may be occasion where the above fee schedule is changed and this will be written as an amendment to this contract at the end.

The retainer will be held until Court Order's release of the reintegration therapist's appointment.

**Contacting Me:**

After the initial appointment is scheduled, correspondence (outside of session) will take place principally by email only. Again, these are not confidential, and it is best to cc the other party. Therapists can share/forward emails when and if necessary. All emails are entered into your file and charged at a rate of \$275/hour. We want to keep emails to scheduling sessions, bare minimum of information or response to therapists. Should you have a concern, it is best to request an appointment to process this in session. For treatment sessions, we will offer one to two appointment times and try to reasonably accommodate your families schedule, however, because this is a Court Order, you will need to come in as requested. All delays, changes or cancellations are documented in your file. If you have a psychiatric/clinical emergency, contact 911 or proceed to the nearest emergency room.

**Grievance Procedures:**

Should there be a grievance with the therapists, you must file this in writing. That therapist will either respond in writing or in person within 14 days to attempt and resolve the issue or request a meeting with Counsel or submit a report to Court. If we can't resolve the issue, you can proceed to have your counsel on your expense petition the Courts for removal. All fees associated with this process incurred by the therapist will be paid for by the party requesting removal. The same hourly Court fee applies. In the interim, reintegration therapy will continue as ordered.

**Records:**

To avoid unilateral communications, it is your responsibility to copy (cc) written communication/documents to the other party that you are sending to me. If this does not occur, you may be advised again to do so, and/or the therapist may forward communications to the other party. If you are acting as your own attorney, it is advised that you follow all state and local Court rules regarding the dissemination of written materials.

Information contained in our files may be released by Court Order or at the discretion of the therapist by subpoena. Should records be ordered, you will need to pay appropriate fees within 3 business days of when Court Order is received.

Any Amendment to the above contract is as follows:

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understood the information in this entire document and agree to abide by its terms.

Petitioner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature Date

Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature Date