

Notice to Divorced/Separated Parents of Child Clients

Welcome!

This is an addition to my disclosure statement, outlining my policies for working with the divorced or separated parents of my child clients. I want to insure the healthiest and productive therapeutic relationship for your child. Because there is often a high level of conflict between divorced or separated parents, I need to mention these policies to outline and clarify how I work to promote trust and open communication.

In order for your child to have confidence and trust in me and in therapy with me, it is necessary that I have a positive, trusting relationship with both of his/her parents. In addition, the great success in therapy exists because I create a safe and neutral space for the child, away from the conflict of the divorce or separation. To build this environment, I maintain absolute neutrality with both parents, providing equal communication to each parent. I will not involve myself in conflicts between parents, and will not engage in negative, unproductive conversation about one parent from the other.

Confidentiality exists between myself and my client (the child), but not between myself and the parents. All information given to me by one parent about the child (concerns, questions, input into therapy goals, etc.) will be shared openly with the other parent. This is done to promote open and healthy communication, so that all parties know I do not take sides, nor keep secrets for one side or the other. If I believe one parent is engaging in negative, hostile, unproductive communication about the other parent, I will redirect the conversation to promote the healthiest conversation.

Additionally, I am sometimes asked to be an “expert witness” in custody disputes. This request places my role as advocate and ally for your child in jeopardy, and therefore is something I ask to be removed from. Should I be legally required to participate in court proceedings, I will do so as child advocate and will only speak to the positive and negative consequences of proposed custody arrangements, and will at no time express an opinion which favors one parent over another. I do this to protect the integrity of my relationship with both parents, as is necessary to promote the greatest success in therapy with your child.

If you have read and understand this document, please sign below. Please let me know if you have any questions, at any point. Thank you.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Client Name

Date