



## PARENTING PARTNERSHIPS, INC.

Houston and Dallas/Ft. Worth

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### **INFORMED CONSENT TO THE CO-PARENTING COACHING SERVICES**

This document contains important information about the professional services and business policies of Parenting Partnerships. By signing this agreement you give permission to Bradley S. Craig of Parenting Partnerships to provide Co-parenting Coaching services for you. Please read this information carefully, and note any questions so they can be discussed.

#### **THE COACHING PROCESS**

Co-parenting Coaching is a supportive relationship with a coach whose job it is to work closely with you to get through your family law matter without suffering more hurt or inflicting more damage on others than is necessary. In some cases, the client, the coach, and the client's attorney can work as a team to focus on the issues that are most important in your situation. Sometimes the intensity of the emotions associated with a breakup can lead people into doing things that inflict needless pain on their children and others. Because your coach has your best interest at heart, you can expect your coach to let you know when you may be doing this and to be there in your corner as you work to replace unwanted behaviors with ones that will encourage a more favorable resolution.

Co-parenting Coaching is designed to help a client move through a divorce proceeding more effectively and efficiently, processing the emotional tasks that are part of divorce in tandem with the legal process. It is useful in the litigated divorce and is part of the Collaborative Law divorce process in which lawyers and mental health professionals work as a team to provide a strategy for achieving reasonable settlement while minimizing the damage to the family.

#### **MY PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT**

During the initial consultation period, you and I will jointly determine if I am an appropriate Co-parenting Coach to work with you. If not, I will refer you to other professionals. The coaching role is a guiding and supportive relationship, however it is not therapy. If at any time while we are working together, I determine that you would benefit from collateral work with other professionals, I will discuss this with you, and if needed, will provide you with the names of appropriate professionals. Examples of such referrals would include psychotherapists and physicians.

If at any time during the coaching process you have any questions about the services being provided, please ask for clarification. Your initial impressions, suggested procedures and goals, and your feelings about whether you are comfortable working with me, are all an important part of the process and are essential to a successful client-professional relationship.

## **SESSIONS AND MY AVAILABILITY**

A Co-parenting Coaching session is typically scheduled for 2 hours in duration. During a session, we may agree to extend the time, in which case you will be charged a prorated fee.

If you will be late for a session, please call and leave a message at (972) 897-0440. If I do not hear from you, I will wait for 15 minutes at the office, after which time I may not be available and you will need to reschedule. If you arrive late, your appointment time will not be extended, as this would infringe on other clients' sessions.

If I do not respond to a message within 24 hours, please leave another message, as I may not have received your initial message. I try to return calls the same day and typically return calls during regular business hours Monday-Friday unless other arrangements have been made. My office is usually closed during the weekends.

## **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

Although I check my voice mail often, I may not be available for immediate emergencies, nor am I available 24-hours a day. If you require this kind of professional support, please let me know and I will refer you to other mental health professionals who offer this service.

If a situation should arise in which you believe that immediate help is needed and I am not available, I suggest that you call your primary care physician or any hospital emergency room. You can also call 911.

## **CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY AND CLIENT SAFETY**

The coaching process is designed to be confidential and supportive. I will protect your confidentiality as much as possible, however if subpoenaed I may be required to divulge information to the court.

If a client communicates directly to me a threat of physical harm to an identifiable person, or damage to an identifiable person's property, I am required by law to warn the intended victim and notify the police.

If I believe that a client is in such mental or emotional condition where he/she poses a danger to him/herself or others, I may breach confidentiality or contact others to facilitate the client's safety.

If I have a reasonable suspicion that a client may be unable to care for him/herself, or may be unable to provide for his/her basic personal needs for clothing and shelter, I may breach confidentiality to facilitate the client's safety.

If, in my professional capacity, I have a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect, or abuse of a dependent, disabled or elder adult (age 65 or older), I am required by law to file a report with the designated protective agencies.

If the use of a collection agency becomes necessary, I will furnish them with the required information to collect the fees due.

While this summary of exceptions to client confidentiality should prove helpful in informing you about the potential breaches of confidentiality, you should be aware that the laws governing these issues are often complex and I am not an attorney. I encourage our active discussion of these issues. However, if you would like more specific advice, formal legal consultation may be desirable.

## **RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

In order to more effectively provide service, it may be important for me to communicate with any previous or concurrently treating professionals. To this end, I may ask you to sign a confidentiality waiver form allowing such communication. By signing this document you agree to allow me to fully communicate with your attorney.

## **FEES**

Fees are \$150.00 per hour rounded up to 15 minute increments. Payment for services is expected at the time services are rendered. Payments may be in cash or check made out to Parenting Partnerships. There will be a \$35.00 charge on all returned checks. I do not accept credit card payments at this time.

Recognizing that there may be times when you will need to speak with me by telephone, the following fee schedule applies: phone conversations and email correspondences will be billed in 15 minute increments in proportion to the \$150.00 hourly rate.

When you make an appointment, that time is reserved for you. If you are unable to make an appointment, cancellation by phone is expected. You will be for charged for appointments not canceled with at least 24 hours advance notice.

In the unlikely event that payment is not made, the use of a collection agency may become necessary, in which case you would receive written notification of my intent to do so.

**I HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY, UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT, AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.**

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SIGNATURE

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DATE