

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION

Today's Date: _____ Family Court Case Number: _____

Parent Information:

Name of Caregiver: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Fax Number: _____

Occupation: _____ Employed By: _____

Child(ren) Information:

(1) _____ DOB _____ Age _____ SS# _____

(2) _____ DOB _____ Age _____ SS# _____

(3) _____ DOB _____ Age _____ SS# _____

(4) _____ DOB _____ Age _____ SS# _____

Current Spouse/Significant Other Information:

Name: _____ DOB _____ Age _____

Cell #: _____ Work #: _____

Is There a Current Order of Protection in Place? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, what date was it filed/entered by the Court: _____

* A Copy of the Order must be on file with Counseling Services of Arizona

Attorney Information: (If you are represented in this case)

Attorney: _____

Attorney's Address: _____

Attorney's Email Address: _____

Attorney's Phone #: _____ Attorney's Fax #: _____

Parenting Coordinator: (If there is one appointed to this case)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: # _____ Fax #: _____

Best Interest Attorney: (If there is one appointed to this case)

Attorney: _____

Attorney's Address: _____

Attorney's Phone #: _____ Attorney's Fax #: _____

Guardian Ad Litem: (If there is one appointed to this case)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Therapeutic Interventionist Information and Agreement

By order of the court, and stipulation of the parties, Therapeutic Interventionists are a constellation of clinical interventions developed for use in family court. Therapeutic Interventionist orders the therapist to conduct specific interventions for the family. The Court often asks referral questions of the Interventionist and the Interventionist is expected to inform the Court of their findings and make recommendations about how to continue to help the family no less than every 120 days and more often as indicated. The update will include treatment goals designated by the Court, status of progress towards the treatment goals, and the parties' compliance with treatment goals. Referral questions tell the therapist what the Court wants to know and accordingly, how to structure the work with the family. Therapeutic Intervention often includes work in the following areas: reunification, re-contact, estrangement, child maltreatment, poor family boundaries, parental substance abuse, relocation, access, and unhealthy family dynamics. I have been designated as the Therapeutic Interventionist for your family. At your initial appointment, we will discuss the therapeutic process and address any concerns you may have. **For your child(ren) to get the best help, everyone concerned must be involved and follow the rules.**

In an effort to enhance the relationships in this family, you have agreed to a course of therapeutic intervention with Heidi Quinlan, L.P.C., L.I.S.A.C serving in one or more of the following roles:

1. Consultant to an evaluator in any court-ordered intervention;
2. Therapeutic Intervention (TI) is to support a renewed relationship between child and parent. The TI therapist helps the parent with progressively more contact with the child. The goal is to help the family move in step-wise approximations to the custody/parenting time order at the rate that supports the well-being of the child. In TI cases, the Court has usually rendered findings of fact and conclusions of law that the reunifying parent does not pose a substantial danger to the child and eventually unsupervised access is expected to resume. *The TI clinician does not retry the cases, but implements the orders of the Court.*

Therapeutic Reunification/Reintegration (TR) is a court-ordered intervention to help support a renewed relationship between a parent/caretaker and a child. Often the child is caught in the middle of a highly conflictual divorce/custody process of in a situation where a parent has experienced some challenges that have kept them from being able to visit with their child. In these cases, it is normal for one parent to want the reunification to occur and one parent to feel concerned or adamant that reunification is not in the best interests of their child. Therefore, this process is therapeutic in nature; to assist the parents in voicing their concerns regarding the other parent's relationship with the child and to assist the reunifying parent to address challenges that kept them from exercising their visitation. Often for the child to have a good relationship with both parents and enjoy their time with their parents, they need the interventionist's help in communicating what he/she needs from each parent.

For TR, the contract begins in the interventionist's office and may gradually proceed to out-of-office contact between the estranged parent and child. A typical course of intervention is **20 to 78 weeks**. How fast the contact proceeds from the interventionist's office to outside the office depends on:

- a. The Court's Order;
- b. If the child's goals for reunification are nearing completion;
- c. How the child is coping;
- d. If all individuals involved are following the reunification rules/plan;
- e. If the goals for reunification continue to be met.

3. Therapeutic Re-Contact clinician (TRC) is intervention that occurs in a more closely monitored and restrictive environment than reunification - designed for cases with corroborated abuse or neglect, incapacitating mental illness in a parent, impaired parents and/or substance abuse.
4. Therapeutic Supervised Visitation (TSV) is court-ordered supervised visitation that is therapeutic in nature. It occurs in the therapist's office or in the community and the therapist assists the parent(s) with appropriate, helpful and healthy parenting of the child. The therapist monitors the child's adjustment to the contact with the parent, teaches age-appropriate parenting skills, gives the parent corrective feedback, and reports to the Court the progress/problems with the family.
5. Forensically Informed Treatment clinician (FIT) is psychotherapy that is court-ordered. The Court is the client and the treatment has limited confidentiality as the Court expects written treatment summaries. The child's records belong to Superior Court and if a parent subpoenas the child's records, the clinician may write the Court and request an In Camera review.

Here I will outline my approach to the interventionist position so that we have the opportunity to establish a clear framework to do the work ahead of us. This agreement provides information about our individual roles and responsibilities. Please take your time reading this agreement; it will provide a foundation to which we will refer to from time to time.

Goals of Therapeutic Interventionist:

1. Evaluate, coordinate and conduct the intervention or treatment as **outlined in the Court's orders**;
2. Provide rehabilitation of the relationship between identified family members;
3. Identify, establish and communicate clear boundaries, behavioral expectations, and rules in order to enhance safety and health in the family;
4. Make referrals for therapy as appropriate for containment of psychological or behavioral issues regarding the parents or children as needed;
5. Report child maltreatment pursuant to applicable child abuse reporting statutes;
6. Facilitate the development of, or implement a court-ordered, child-focussed, schedule for access;
7. Facilitate conflict resolution;
8. Provide education and support to prevent re-litigation;
9. Assist family members in establishing:
 - a. Rules for healthy interaction/communication with each other;
 - b. Rules for safe touch;
 - c. Rules for appropriate child discipline;
 - d. Rules for establishing appropriate behavioral limits;
 - e. Rules for family boundaries and conflict resolution;
 - f. Rules for what is discussed in telephone/text contacts between parents and children;
 - g. Rules for behavior and exchanges;
 - h. Rules regarding who is present at exchanges and access

Procedure of Therapeutic Reunification:

1. Interventionist meets with each parent individually, or together depending on the circumstances, for 90-minutes to discuss the behavioral expectations of all family members. **Children are not to be brought to this initial appointment.** At the initial face-to-face meeting, we will review the current stipulation or court order together so that we will have clear ideas about our mission. Parents or caretakers will be asked to establish goals, time frames and expectations for the work.
2. Interventionist prepares the child(ren) for reunification.
3. Interventionist consults with treating clinicians and requests all related documents (CPS records, police reports, progress notes, etc.).
4. Interventionist assists child(ren) in determining the rules for reunification.
5. Interventionist educates the parents and gets commitments from parents to follow the child(ren)'s rules.
6. Interventionist meets and works with each parent both together and individually.

7. Interventionist will work with each parent and the child(ren) as much as necessary.
8. Gradual reunification – digital recording, telephonic contact, in-office, out-of-office supervised, out-of-office public place (non-supervised).
9. Treatment goals shall be identified in writing and brief 90-day treatment summaries shall be provided to the Court and to the parents.

Confidentiality:

The nature of the relationship between the interventionist and the parties is unique in that the interventionist is usually a consultant to the Court charged with specific duties such that communications between the interventionist, the parties, and collateral contacts are ***not confidential***. The interventionist will provide the Court, referral source or parties with the impressions, recommendations and findings verbally or in writing as they relate to the specific dynamics of the case. Information the parents/caretakers share with the interventionist may be shared with (but not limited to): the other parent/caretaker (defined as a birth parent, step-parent and a domiciled significant other), other mental health professionals involved in the case, the Court, the Guardian ad Litem/Best-Interest Attorney, Department of Child Safety, school administration, teachers, child care providers, and attorneys. The interventionist shall maintain the privacy of the children, inasmuch as necessary, to secure a sense of psychological safety for the child(ren). Information will be shared with the parents/caretakers as needed in order to enhance therapeutic goals. Information may be withheld from the parents as well, with the understanding that intrusion, poor boundaries or secondary agendas may be potentially harmful to the child(ren). Overall, the child(ren)'s best interests, as determined by the interventionist, will be the prevailing interest. *To prevent 3rd party communications or triangulation, all communications to and from the TI may be communicated to both parties, all texts or emails shall be copied to both parties at all times.*

Both parties have access to all records. Any request for records must be made in writing and provide 10 days for their production. A fee of .25 cents/page may be charged.

Use of Technology/Limits of Confidentiality:

Throughout this process, there may be multiple forms of technology used to communicate with all parties and for use in interventions. These may include email, text, forms of web conferencing, etc. The web conferencing website I use is Zoom, which is HIPAA compliant, but as with all technology and the internet, I cannot verify that all information is confidential when it leaves my office. Some of the risks include internet hacking, other individuals reading text of email, phones getting lost or someone getting into the phone, etc. All use of technology will be used in compliance with Arizona law.

Be aware that all emails are retained in the logs of your and my Internet service providers. While it is unlikely that someone will be looking at these logs, they are, in theory, available to be read by the system administrator(s) of the Internet service provider. You should also know that any emails I receive from you and any responses that I send to you become a part of your legal record.

Social Media:

I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc). I believe that adding clients as friends or contacts on these sites can compromise your confidentiality and our respective privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic relationship. If you have questions about this, please bring them up when we meet and we can talk more about it.

Roles of the Parties:

The responsibilities of a parent/caretaker may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Keep the interventionist informed of your concerns;
2. Meet the behavioral expectations outlined in the court order;
3. Meet the behavioral expectations outlined by the interventionist during the course of our work; which includes keeping all scheduled appointments - appointments are canceled only for a valid emergency and at interventionist's request/approval;

4. Promote a healthy relationship between your child(ren) and the other parent;
5. Work toward fostering healthy familial relationships;
6. Provide the interventionist with any legal, medical, scholastic and psychological records relevant to the case;
7. Provide the interventionist with notice of all judicial proceedings affecting your child(ren);
8. Keep the interventionist advised of current mailing addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.
9. This process is Court-Ordered. You have the option of refusing to participate or withdrawing altogether. However, the Court will be notified of your refusal or withdrawal, which may result in actions by the Court, including charges of contempt as this is a Court Ordered process.

Retainer and fees:

The hourly rate for the Therapeutic Interventionist is \$125.00, with payment made at the time of service. The retainer fee is \$1250.00 for administrative services. (Retainer funds are not kept in an interest-bearing account) All fees are divided equally between the parents unless the Court has specified otherwise. Your portion of the retainer is due at the time you return this paperwork to our office. An additional retainer may be required when the retainer amount falls below \$250.00. The responsible party(s) will be asked to replenish it immediately. If you fail to immediately replenish your retainer, we will update the Court as to your financial non-compliance and no work will be completed on your case until the required retainer is received. If the Therapeutic Interventionist process is interrupted due to financial non-compliance, we reserve the right to increase the minimum retainer to an amount deemed fit by the Therapeutic Interventionist.

Additionally, no work will be completed after my appointment has expired. It is your responsibility to request the Court to extend the appointment.

Upon receipt of a Subpoena, this office will send counsel a confirmation letter with an *estimate* of time and fees to prepare the file for release for court. Please note it is office policy that I inspect the records prior to release and you will be billed at my hourly rate. Copying fees must be paid before the file is released.

The requesting party must pay testimony and deposition fees in advance. Requests for testimony/deposition are to be accompanied by a subpoena and a signed Authorization from each party. Requests are to be made 10 business days prior to trial/deposition. This office will send counsel a confirmation letter with Ms. Quinlan's availability and fees for her appearance. Fees are to be received five business days prior to trial/deposition. There are no refunds for testimony/deposition fees.

Billing and Payments:

Any accounts with a balance outstanding for longer than 30 days will accrue interest at the rate of 10% per month. If necessary, this office will utilize the services of a collection agency.

Your retainer will be debited as administrative services are rendered (e.g., telephone calls, letters, emails, file review, reports, etc.) If you fail to replenish your retainer, no work will be completed on court ordered cases until the required retainer is received. Additionally, no work will be completed after my appointment has expired. It is your responsibility to request the Court to extend the appointment.

Refunds of unused retainers are processed once a month upon expiration of my term.

Heidi Quinlan LPC, LISAC
Counseling Services of Arizona
Ph: (480) 229-9167

3048 E. Baseline Rd. #107
Mesa, AZ 85204
Fax: (602) 429-8082

Availability of the Interventionist:

Difficulties that require immediate attention arise in discordant families. I am best contacted by e-mail at **heidiquinlan@counselingservicesofaz.com** or text at (480) 229-9167. Telephone messages are responded to in the order in which they were received, sometimes causing a delay. Please be patient when awaiting a return call. I can usually return calls within 48-72 hours. If there is a life-threatening emergency, call 911 for emergency assistance. If there is a mental health emergency, please call the mental health crisis line at (602) 222-9444.

In signing this agreement the parties acknowledge that they have been made aware of the limits of confidentiality in this therapeutic relationship. They knowingly consent to communications between the interventionist, the court, the referral source, TASC, probation officers, the police, DCS, therapists, and all collateral contacts relevant to the custody, visitation, care and access to the child(ren) and parents.

The parties acknowledge that they have been informed of the risks and benefits of this therapeutic relationship. Your signature below indicates that you have read this form and consent to treatment with the provisions set forth here and by order of the court.

Parent/Caregiver Printed Name

Parent/Caregiver Signature

Date