



Capitol Psychology Services
Denise Leville, PhD

Family Relationship Resolution & Reunification Services Agreement for Court-Involved Families

Overview

Family Relationship Resolution and Reunification Services are offered to families that are Court-involved and are experiencing hostility, severe conflict, estrangement, abandonment, challenges with co-parenting or parent alienation, or when parent and child have been separated for any reason and there is an interest in, or Court Order for, reunification. The purpose of these services includes facilitating healthy reunification of parent with child (ren), developing healthier co-parent or parent child relationships, and helping a family build a child focused and developmentally healthy home environment in both parents' homes. Positive outcome and research supported strategies that incorporate child psychology and development, attachment, parenting, and family systems approaches are utilized.

This is *not* Family Therapy. These psychological services provided to Court-involved families differ from traditional psychotherapy with regards to confidentiality, input and control over the process within sessions, and the overall service provided (i.e. Court may order a specific type of service such as Co-Parent Counseling, Family Consultation or Parent-Child Reunification Services; Court may specify who the provider may be thus restricting the families opportunity to select a provide). There is an accumulating body of research that provides processes for practitioners working with Court-involved families. It is within this framework that Court-involved family services are informed and conducted which is a dramatic departure from traditional psychotherapy where the patients significantly influence the nature and scope of services provided by their chosen clinician.

A goal of these services is to provide a safe, structured and supportive environment where parent-child reunification and healthy family relationship development may begin through benefit of focused observations, targeted modeling, effective negotiating and strategic coaching. These interventions serve to move the family relationships toward readiness for establishing a cohesive and positive family system -- one that can access, productively participate in and realize the potential benefits of Family Therapy in the future and can begin re-establishing an active, nurturing, and cooperative parenting role in the lives of the child (ren) that promotes healthy family environments.

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Services provided for Court-involved families:

- Parent – Child Reunification
- Co-Parent Counseling
- Therapeutic Visitation with Parent-Child
- Parent Consultation and Coaching
- Consultation to GAL, Parent Coordinators, Family Law Attorneys
- Family Consultations
- Individual and Family therapy as specified by Court Order

Confidentiality:

1. Every effort will be taken to respect the parties' confidentiality and privacy of the minor children, however, by signing this service agreement, you are acknowledging the following limits to confidentiality:
 - a. Certain state and federal laws protect the rights of minors. In particular, Dr. Leville may be legally prohibited or may choose to not disclose information about your child to you. Typically this would apply to circumstances that would compromise the children's safety, jeopardize successful outcome for services and/or risk divulging matters related to reproductive health, drug or alcohol use or HIV status.
 - b. Any records related to these services may be subject to Court review or be ordered to be disclosed to the Court under Court Order. When records or testimony are subpoenaed, the requesting party is responsible for all associated fees payable in advance.
 - c. Any records related to this process may be subject to release and disclosure in response to your inquiry, the request of the Court, and/or compliance with relevant state agencies and licensing bodies. In each of these conditions, Dr. Leville retains sole discretion to include from release or disclosure any record which, if released, has the potential to cause harm to any involved parties, especially any minor children.
 - d. Dr. Leville is a mandated reporter and required to inform relevant parties (which can include law enforcement, any intended victim(s), Division of Child, Youth & Families (DCYF) or Adult Protective Services) of any condition or circumstance that she deems there to be risk of harm to an individual or damage to property.
 - e. Any matters discussed in this process with one party may be disclosed to any other party involved at the sole discretion of Dr. Leville. Decisions related to disclosure are made in the context of the service goals and desired outcomes, and protecting any minor participants.

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- f. As a precondition to commencing this Court Ordered service, you acknowledge that Dr. Leville will collect and may communicate otherwise private, confidential and/or privileged information to others at her sole discretion for the purpose of providing effective services and complying with established licensing, state and federal regulations.
- g. All materials received, reviewed and considered are compiled and stored as a record of this service for a term and in a manner consistent with relevant standards. This record will not be available for inspection by parties or counsel except as ordered by the Court and as part of the legal process. In the circumstance that the Court orders the release of the record, the requesting party is responsible for all anticipated copying and delivery costs in advance of delivery.

Emergency Circumstances: Dr. Leville is not available to respond to emergencies. Please direct urgent health matters to your PCP, your local emergency room or your other mental health provider.

Record Keeping: Dr. Leville maintains a record of services provided and all consultations with parties and collateral informants. All notes are included in the record and are typically type written following the session instead of during the session so as not to disrupt the continuity of the session flow. Any and all electronic communications are made part of the record and can be communicated to the other party. Records of telephone conversations are made part of the record in a typed summary and may be communicated to the other party. Parties are encouraged to keep their own notes of the process. In response to a written request, Dr. Leville will provide a written summation of the process to date; the time required to prepare this document will be billed to the requesting party at a rate of \$150.00 per hour and these fees will be due prior to the release of the document (to all parties).

Fees for Services:

Retainer	\$600.00 per parent
Initial 6 sessions	\$900.00 (*split between parents)
Session Fee**	\$150.00 per hour
Documentation Prep***	\$150.00 per hour
Court Appearance	\$200.00 per hour (include travel and wait time)
Attorney Consultation	\$200.00 per hour
Copying Fee	.25/ page after initial 10 pages
Admin Fee	\$ 40.00 per hour
Therapeutic Visitation Fee:	\$125.00 per hour
Telephone, E-mail Review, Documentation Review:	\$150.00 per hour

Late Cancel or Failure to Show for Scheduled appointment is billed to the party that did not provide adequate (24 hours) notice of cancellation or did not show -- full session fee rate.

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*Unless otherwise noted by a Court Order, it is generally assumed that fees are equally split between the parties.

**Insurance is not accepted for intake phase and will be considered on a case by case basis depending on the nature and complexity of the services, and comportment of the parties during the process. When insurance is not being used, prepayment by the parties is due in 3 session increments.

*** Payment is required prior to the release of any documents.

Termination of Services:

- Service goals have been accomplished.
- One of the parties no longer consents to services for themselves or children.
- Continuing services are determined to not be in the best interest of the child (ren) or other parties involved.
- The terms of this agreement are breached, including numerous absences and inability or refusal to keep retainer funds current.
- Dr. Leville determines that the process is not productive or somehow risks harm to anyone including co-parents, the child(ren) or herself.
- A perceived threat of violence or imminent danger by any involved parties.
- Services are determined to be ineffective or being sabotaged by a family member(s).
- Court Order no longer matches the clinical needs of the family.
- It is determined by Dr. Leville that one or more of the parties is not acting in good faith.
- The Court orders that services be terminated.

Parties' Concerns and Complaints: Acknowledging that Court Ordered Family Services process routinely leaves at least one party aggrieved, parties are advised that concerns and complaints should be addressed directly to Dr. Leville's attention in writing in the first instance. Should any such concern or complaint thereafter result in legal action, administrative hearing or review of any kind, the party bringing the complaint accepts full and complete responsibility for Dr. Leville's costs inherent in any such process, including but not limited to attorney's fees and time and revenue lost in preparation and appearance.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Leville, PhD.

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**Capitol Psychology Services
Family Relationship Resolution & Reunification Services
Agreement for Court-Involved Families**

Signature Page

By initialing each of the foregoing pages individually and by signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and have complete understanding and agree to the terms, conditions and limitations of this agreement with Dr. Leville providing Court Involved Family Services. Furthermore, you provide informed consent for your child (ren) to participate in services with Capitol Psychology Services, PLLC and Dr. Leville and her associates, and you agree to participate in these services as well.

Printed Name of Child Child's Date of Birth

Printed Name of Child Child's Date of Birth

Printed Name of Child Child's Date of Birth

Printed Name & Relationship to Child(ren)	Signature	Today's Date
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By providing an e-mail address below, you are (1) acknowledging that electronic transmissions may not be secure and may therefore divulge otherwise confidential information and (2) you are permitting Dr. Leville to contact you at this electronic address individually or jointly as part of a e-mail to other parties (e.g., your children's other parent) relevant to these Court Involved Family Services.

CC: File/GAL (When assigned)

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