

CAUSE NO. _____

IN THE INTEREST OF: § IN THE DISTRICT COURT
§
_____ § _____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT
§
CHILD / CHILDREN § _____ COUNTY, TEXAS

**ORDER FOR CO-PARENTING COUNSELING AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNSELOR
AT TEXAS PREMIER COUNSELING SERVICES**

THIS CAUSE having come before this Court and this Court having reviewed the file and being otherwise fully advised in the premises this Court finds that there is good cause shown for appointment of a **Co-Parenting Counselor** and that such an appointment is in the best interest of the child(ren) in this cause. The Court finds that both parties have knowledge of this Order and each party has the ability to comply with its terms.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED for the parties involved that **Monika Logan, M.A., LPC, LSOTP** (Texas Premier Counseling Services, PLLC), (972) 895-2502, 2770 Main St., Suite 150, Frisco, Texas 75033 is appointed as the **Co-Parenting Counselor**.

Each party is ORDERED to contact the Counselor’s office within **three (3)** business days of the signing of this Order, to schedule an initial appointment, to provide a copy of this Order to the Counselor, and to complete intake paperwork as directed by the Counselor. In the event a mutually-agreeable appointment time and date cannot be set, the Counselor shall select a date and a time for the initial appointment and each party is ORDERED to cooperate with the Counselor in scheduling and to attend as directed by the Counselor. Each party is ORDERED to provide copies of all current orders, including the currently court-ordered parenting time schedule, to the Counselor and to provide changes or updated orders to the Counselor within **three (3)** business days of such orders being signed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Counselor may meet with the parties individually, jointly, and/or with other household or family members as they mutually deem appropriate.

DURATION OF THERAPY

IT IS ORDERED that therapy shall continue for a minimum of six **(6) months**, with reevaluation of the necessity of continued services based on the parties' progress in meeting Co-Parenting Counseling Goals as noted in “Attachment A.”

IT IS ORDERED that the duration, frequency, location, and persons in attendance for each session with the Counselor shall be left to the discretion of the Counselor, who is specifically authorized to notify the Court if any party is failing to comply with this Order or other Order(s) of the Court.

COMMUNICATION

IT IS ORDERED that the Counselor may communicate and share information with the parties, the parties' attorneys, any Parenting Facilitator appointed in this case, any of the parties' or the child(ren)'s Individual Counselors, or any other professional in connection with this Order as deemed necessary by the Counselor.

IT IS ORDERED the parties shall execute any authorizations as requested by the Counselor to enable the Counselor to receive or provide information about the parties or the child(ren) in question. The parties shall notify the Counselor in writing within twenty-four **(24) hours** of any changes in their contact information, legal representation, residency, or occupants of their home.

Should the parties be ordered to utilize "Our Family Wizard" or any other co-parenting tool, the parties are ORDERED to complete necessary forms for the Counselor to have access.

TERMINATION

IT IS ORDERED that counseling with each party shall continue at the discretion of Counselor and that services by the Counselor will cease when progress towards counseling goals have been met, or if no progress is being made, or if it is deemed appropriate by the Counselor that another Counselor is necessary.

All Co-Parenting Counseling shall immediately cease if: 1) the parties enter into a written agreement to cease Co-Parenting Counseling; or 2) either party files a motion with the Court to stop Co-Parenting Counseling. The parties agree that if a motion is filed pursuant to this paragraph either party can set a hearing on that motion to determine if Co-Parenting Counseling should continue, if any modifications to this Order should be made, and if either party should be ordered to pay attorney fees if the motion was not filed in good faith.

PAYMENT

IT IS ORDERED that the expense of counseling services shall be divided between the parties as follows: _____% Petitioner _____% Respondent _____% Intervenor. The parties are ORDERED to pay their respective portions of any initial retainer within **seven (7)** days of the signing of this Order and pay within **seven (7)** days of any invoice or bill from the Counselor.

If a parent cancels a counseling session less than seventy-two (**72**) **hours** prior to the scheduled session time or fails to attend a scheduled session, that parent shall be responsible for **100%** of the cancellation fees.

The foregoing payment provisions apply except for the following situations:

Individual Parent Session(s). If a parent has an Individual Session with the Counselor, with or without the child(ren) in question, the costs shall be:

- Divided between the parties as ORDERED above (or)
- Paid **100%** by the party who has the Individual Session.

Joint Adult Session(s). If parents have a Joint Session with the Counselor, with or without the child(ren) in question, the costs shall be:

- Divided between the parties as ORDERED above (or)
- Divided **equally** between the parties.

Document Review. If a party, the party's legal counsel, or anyone acting on the party's behalf request that the Counselor reviews any documents, the costs shall be:

- Divided between the parties as ORDERED above (or)
- Paid **100%** by the party requesting the review.

If the request is made **jointly**, the costs shall be:

- Divided between the parties as ORDERED above (or)
- Divided **equally** between the parties.

Communication with the Counselor. If a party, the party's legal counsel, or anyone acting on the party's behalf, requests to communicate with the Counselor, the costs shall be:

- Divided between the parties as ORDERED above (or)
- Paid **100%** by the party requesting the review.

If the request is made **jointly**, the costs shall be:

- Divided between the parties as ORDERED above (or)
- Divided **equally** between the parties.

Communication with Third Parties. If the Counselor communicates with a Parenting Facilitator, any of the parties' or the child(ren)'s Individual Therapist(s), or any other professional(s) in connection with this litigation, the costs shall be:

- Divided between the parties as ORDERED above (or)
- Divided **equally** between the parties.

Appearances. Requests for the Counselor's appearance in connection with the litigation, including depositions, hearings, trials, settlement conferences, or any other formal meeting, the costs shall be:

- Divided between the parties as ORDERED above (or)
- Paid **100%** by the party who requests the Counselor's appearance.

Written Reports. The cost of any written report that is requested shall be:

- Divided between the parties as ORDERED above (or)
- Divided **equally** between the parties (or)
- Paid **100%** by the party(s) who requests the Written Report.

TESTIMONY

The Counselor shall testify at any hearing in this case at the written request of any attorney of record sent via subpoena, which may be delivered to Counselor via fax or to this Counselor's email. Unless payment for testimony is already addressed above, the requesting party shall be responsible for the Counselors customary and usual fees for testifying and said fees shall be paid at least **seven (7)** days prior to the hearing in the manner outlined by the Counselor. **ABSENT PAYMENT, THE COUNSELOR IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO APPEAR OR PROVIDE TESTIMONY EVEN IF FORMALLY SUBPOENAED.**

The Court ORDERS the following provisions regarding the parent's cooperation with counseling:

The parties have been advised that successful treatment may require one or both parties to change their own behavior in order to improve the co-parenting relationship. The Counselor may request specific changes by the parents in such areas as appropriate communication, assuming responsibility for poor communication, and/or implementing constructive problem-solving techniques to resolve co-parenting differences. The parties shall make reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Counselor's requests in these areas.

The parties are ORDERED to make reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Counselor's requests in these areas.

Co-Parenting Counseling is not a substitute for a Child Custody Evaluation within the terms of the Texas Family Code; therefore, the Counselor shall not make recommendations as to the conservatorship of, the possession (*i.e.*, *Parenting Schedule*) of, or access to the child(ren) in question. The Counselor may make recommendations to the parties regarding changes in the co-parenting relationships (*i.e.*, *conduct*) that may be helpful to the parties in implementing the Court's orders.

The Counselor shall report to the Court as deemed necessary regarding the progress of counseling, whether the parties are cooperating, or any other issue that the Counselor deems necessary. This may include but is not limited to the parties' cooperation, participation, compliance, payments, and/or any other issue(s)/concern(s) that the Counselor deems necessary that may impede the Co-Parenting process, and/or for which the counselor believes necessary to benefit the child(ren) in fostering and/or sustaining a healthy relationship with both parents.

The Counselor may elect to provide Status Updates to the attorneys and/or the Court at a duration(s) deemed at the sole discretion of the Counselor and/or at a minimum interval designated by the Court. Unless otherwise addressed above, the fee for a written Status Report, will be divided **equally** between the parties.

IT IS SO ORDERED

Signed on this _____ day of _____ 20 _____

Judge Presiding

AGREED

Printed Name

Bar Number

Attorney for **Petitioner**

Printed Name

Bar Number

Attorney for **Respondent**

EXHIBIT A

CO-PARENTING COUNSELING GOALS

(CHECK ALL APPLICABLE BOXES AND DESCRIBE SPECIFIC ISSUES)

The following goals are intended to assist the co-parents with improving the co-parenting relationship, as well as to minimize the child(rens) exposure to adult issues.

The primary goals of Co-Parenting Counseling shall be:

- Identify issues and/or concerns relative to a co-parent's rule(s) enforcement or discipline that may be problematic to the other co-parent.
 - Increase the co-parent(s) understanding regarding emotional harm caused by over-involving child(ren) in adult matters and issues related to litigation.
 - Co-parent(s) to terminate blaming their co-parent for the current conflicts with other involved family members.
 - Assess each of the co-parents parenting style(s) and determine whether it may be interfering with establishing limits and rules between the co-parents.
 - Identify external factors that may be contributing to the child(rens) current behavioral problems.
 - Parents and any involved adult must demonstrate appropriate parent-parent and parent-child roles, responsibilities, and boundaries.
 - Improve each parent's communication skills in order to distinguish valid concerns from overly negative critical, and generalized views relating to the other parent.
 - Co-parents to cease and desist blaming each other for poor communication and to accept personal responsibility for their own miscommunications.
 - Address the following specific issue(s): _____
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