

CAUSE NO. _____

IN THE INTEREST OF

§ IN THE ____ JUDICIAL

§

§ DISTRICT COURT

§

CHILD

§ _____ COUNTY, TEXAS

ORDER FOR COUNSELING AND APPOINTMENT OF CHILD(REN)'S THERAPIST

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 therapist for a party and that such an appointment is in the best interest of the children 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 that a contract therapist with Counseling Center of Montgomery County, PLLC as selected by Counseling Center of Montgomery County is appointed for _____. The party is ordered to provide Counseling Center of Montgomery County with a copy of this order along with their completed intake paperwork for Counseling Center of Montgomery County within three (3) business days of this order. The therapist shall select a date for the initial appointment and the party is ORDERD to cooperate with the therapist in scheduling and appear with the child(ren) as directed by the therapist.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the therapist may meet with the child(ren) individually, jointly with siblings, with one or both parents, or with other household or family members as they deem appropriate. The duration, frequency, location, and persons in attendance for each session with the therapist shall be left to the discretion of the therapist, who is specifically authorized to notify the Court if any party is failing to comply with the spirit or letter of this order or other orders of the Court.

GOALS OF COUNSELING:

The goals of counseling shall as follows (CHECK ALL BOXES AND DESCRIBE SPECIFIC ISSUES):

- Address emotional and behavioral problems of the child(ren)
- Improve the parent-child relationship between the child(ren) and
 - Mother
 - Father
 - Both Parents
- Improve sibling relationships
- Address the following specific issues:

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

- Each parent shall fully cooperate and wholly heartedly participate in the children's therapy as directed by the therapist.
- The Court will consider the good faith efforts and the parents' devotion to success of counseling as a factor in determining whether to modify the current order, including expanding or restricting parenting time provisions.
- The parents shall openly and honestly address what that they have learned as a result of counseling and how they are going to modify their future behavior based on the skills acquired in counseling.
- The Court will consider the lack of good faith participation or efforts to sabotage or undermine the success of counseling as a factor in determining whether to modify the current order, including expanding or restricting parenting time provisions.
- The parents shall fully complete all homework assigned by the therapist by the date and time requested by the therapist.

The parties have been advised that successful therapy for children often requires that parents make changes in their own behavior and parenting to support their child(ren)'s needs. The therapist may request specific changes by the parents in such areas as setting appropriate limits for child(ren), encouraging child(ren) to express feelings and solve problems appropriately, listening to the child(ren)'s concerns, actively supporting child(ren)'s independent relationships, and shielding the child(ren) from parental conflict. The parties ARE ORDERED to make reasonable efforts to cooperate with the therapist's requests in these areas.

The counselor shall not make recommendations as to the conservatorship of or the possession of or access to the child(ren) in question, as these are outside the counselor's role. The counselor may make recommendations to the party regarding changes in the parent-child relationships that may be helpful to the children in implementing the Court's orders.

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED

- The party shall execute any authorizations needed to enable the counselor to receive or provide information about the children or the parties.
- The party shall notify the therapist in writing within 24 hours of any changes in their contact information, legal representation, residency, or occupants of their home.
- The counselor, at the written request of any attorney of record, shall testify at any hearing in this case; the requesting party shall be responsible for the counselor's customary and usual fees for testifying and said fees shall be paid prior to the hearing; absent such payment the counselor is under no obligation to appear or provide testimony even if formally subpoenaed.
- The counselor shall report to the Court as deemed necessary by the counselor on the progress of counseling, whether the party is participating in a timely and good faith manner, any additional services recommended, or any other issue that the counselor determines is in the best interests of the minor children.

Signed on this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

JUDGE PRESIDING