

Sample Reunification Therapy Order Language

1. [REDACTED] shall be the reunification therapist for the parties and their children, with the primary goal of which is to repair the relationship between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; all family members shall continue to attend therapy for so long as recommended by reunification therapist or further order of the Court. The additional goals of the reunification therapy are:
 - a. To foster healthy child adjustment;
 - b. To restore adequate parent functioning, parenting and roles;
 - c. To restore and facilitate contact between the [REDACTED] and the minor child in a safe environment;
 - d. To work with each parent and the child towards the goal of identifying and separating the child's needs and views from each parent's needs and views;
 - e. To assist the parents to fully understand the needs of the child and the negative repercussions for the child of a severed and/or compromised relationship with a parent in their young lives and as adults;
 - f. To protect and remove the child from parental conflict;
 - g. To work with each family member to help form more appropriate parent-parent and parent-child roles and boundaries;
 - h. To assist the child to differentiate self from others and exercise age-appropriate autonomy;
 - i. To help each parent distinguish valid concerns from overly negative, critical, and generalized views relating to the other parent;
 - j. To assist parents to resolve relevant parent-child conflicts; and
 - k. To improve parenting skills and family communication skills.
2. The entire family (both parents and the minor children) shall be involved, in various combinations with the reunification therapy as directed by the reunification therapist. The process will include meetings between the therapist and each of the parents and the child individually and jointly to the extent deemed necessary by the reunification therapist.
3. The role of the reunification therapist will be therapeutic in nature, to attain the therapeutic goals mentioned herein; it is not the role of a therapist to implement Orders or custody schedules. The reunification therapist may make clinical recommendations to the parents, lawyers and the Court, but as a therapist versus a custody evaluator or

Parenting Coordinator the therapist may not make specific custody recommendations. Nonetheless, the therapist may provide clinical information on how various schedules may impact a child's mental health, which the parties and Court can take into account when they make their custody-related decisions.

4. The reunification therapist may choose to contact other professionals involved with the family (specifically including but not limited to the Parent Coordinator, the children's therapist, and the parties' individual therapists) to both give and receive information to better meet the aforementioned objectives and goals for the therapy. Toward this end, the parents shall sign all releases of information required by the reunification therapist to implement the process. The parents shall provide all records, documentation, and information requested by the reunification therapist as soon as possible upon request.
5. Both parents shall support the therapy and the reunification therapist to the children. This includes fitting therapy sessions into their own schedule and the child's schedule based on the frequency of sessions recommended by the reunification therapist. This support also includes the children's rights not to discuss with the parents their sessions with the therapist. To this end the parents shall not ask for information about the therapy sessions or parenting time with the other parent. Neither party shall do anything to undermine (to the children or otherwise) the reunification therapy process.
6. Where possible, the parties shall refrain from scheduling therapy during times where after-school activities are scheduled, however, the parties shall not allow after-school activities to prevent the children from seeing the therapist at the recommended intervals recommended by the reunification therapist.
7. Given the risks of information being taken out of context or being incomplete, the parties shall not restate, summarize, or paraphrase in court documents any feedback provided by the reunification therapist to them or the child. If necessary, either party may request a report, and the reunification therapist shall be responsible for communicating any feedback or information about the therapy process to this Court.
8. While the reunification therapist is bound to maintain confidentiality and not disclose information to anyone not involved in the process, the parties understand that the process may involve the sharing of information between those involved in the process, as well as with various professionals and this Court. The reunification therapist may use her discretion to exchange information as necessary between parents and between either parent and the child. The reunification therapist shall be free to disclose all information, documentation, and correspondence generated by the process with the lawyer for each parent and with this Court. The reunification therapist may at her discretion exchange information with other relevant professionals currently or previously involved and may speak with the lawyers ex parte provided that any substantive updated information or recommendations are communicated to both

lawyers. The parties shall sign any and all consents or releases to allow the reunification therapist to obtain or to provide information to this Court, the lawyers for either party and the other parent.

9. The parties understand that the reunification therapist is required to report to the appropriate child welfare authority if she has a reasonable suspicion that a child is being abused and/or neglected. In addition, the reunification therapist is obliged to notify the proper authorities if she has a "reasonable suspicion" that a party or a child may harm himself, herself, the other party, or a child.
10. The parties shall divide the costs associated with the reunification therapy sessions which include the minor child with _____ paying XX% and _____ paying XX%. This percent split applies to all sessions that come under the umbrella of reunification therapy, be they individual or family sessions, and to all collateral services to include but not limited to phone calls and emails with parties, attorneys, schools, therapists, etc.
11. The parties shall not at any time publish, or cause any third-party to publish, by name or anonymously, any reviews, statements, opinions, or other commentary on any online internet website, including but not limited to reviews sites or social media websites, concerning the services provided by the **Therapist and Practice Name** under the terms of the Order dated _____.