SUSAN FLETCHER, PH.D.
PSYCHOLOGIST SPECIALIZING IN FORENSICS

GOALS OF REUNIFICATION THERAPY

- To foster healthy child adjustment.
- To facilitate the implementation of the previously agreed or ordered parenting time.
- To facilitate adequate parent functioning and roles.
- To restore or facilitate contact between parent and child.
- To work with each parent and their child(ren) towards the goal of identifying and separating with each child's needs and views from each parent's needs and views.
- To assist the parents to fully understand the needs of each child and the negative repercussions from the child(ren) of a severed or compromised relationship with a parent in their young lives and as adults.
- To work with each family member to assist them to form more appropriate parent-parent and parent-child roles and boundaries.
- To address possible distortions of the child(ren) and replace these with more realistic perceptions that reflect the child's actual experience with both parents.
- To assist the child(ren) to differentiate self from others and exercise age-appropriate autonomy.
- To help each parent differentiate valid concerns from overly negative, critical and generalized views relating to the other parent.
- To assist the parents in resolving relevant parent-child conflicts.
- To assist in improving each parent's parenting skills and family communications skills.

THE REUNIFICATION PROCESS

A. While each parent may have different views about the cause and reasons for the child's reluctance or refusal to have contact with one of the parents, they understand the objectives defined above and that they each need to be a part of the solution to meet those objectives.

B. Each parent has agreed to the involvement of the entire family, in various combinations, as directed by the appointed therapist. The process will include meetings between the appointed therapist and each of the parents and the child(ren) individually and jointly. The process may include interviews or meetings with other family members as deemed necessary by the appointed therapist.

C. The appointed therapist will be assisting to implement the previously agreed to Court Ordered parenting plan.

D. The appointed therapist may provide a report to the Court if asked to do so.

E. Both parents will provide all documentation, information and releases requested by the appointed therapist.

F. The appointed therapist will be at liberty to contact any third parties, with proper releases, they deem necessary in order to facilitate the Reunification Therapy process.

G. The appointed therapist may recommend adding additional professional support for the child(ren) or parents.

H. The appointed therapist may choose to contact other professionals involved with the family to both give and receive information to better meet the objectives and goals of the intervention.

I. Parents and stepparents will support the process of Reunification Therapy. This support includes respecting the child(ren)'s right not to discuss with the parents their sessions with the appointed therapist. The parents will not ask their child(ren) for information about their sessions or parenting time with the other parent.