

CAUSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE INTEREST OF:

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

A CHILD/CHILDREN

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY, TEXAS

**ORDER FOR REUNIFICATION THERAPY AND APPOINTMENT OF THERAPIST**

On this day, the Court considered the request for therapy, and the Court finds that there is good cause shown for appointment of a Therapist to provide therapy as noted herein, and that such an appointment is in the best interest of the child(ren) in this cause. The Court finds that all parties have knowledge of this order; and each party has the ability to comply with its terms.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Susan Fletcher, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist, 2500 Legacy Drive, Suite 120, Frisco, Texas 75034, (972) 612-1188 is appointed as the Reunification Therapist for the parties and the children in question. Each party is ORDERED to contact the Therapist's office within 3 business days of the signing of this order, to provide a copy of this order to the Therapist and provide their completed intake paperwork to the Therapist as directed by the Therapist. In addition, they are each ORDERED to schedule an initial appointment. In the event a mutually-agreeable appointment time cannot be set, the Therapist shall select a date for the initial appointment and each party is ORDERED to cooperate with the Therapist in scheduling and appear as directed by the Therapist. Each party and attorney is ORDERED to provide copies of all current orders, including the currently court-ordered parenting time schedule, to the Therapist and to provide any updated orders within 3 business days of such orders being signed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Therapist may meet with the parties or the child(ren) individually, jointly with siblings, with one or both parents, or with other household or

family members as they deem appropriate. Each party shall fully comply with the Therapist's requests in conducting therapy, including, but not limited to, ensuring that the child(ren) are transported to and from scheduled appointments in a timely manner and exercising parental authority to require that the child(ren) attend and cooperate with counseling treatments and interventions. 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.

IT IS ORDERED that each parent shall cause the child(ren) to be transported to any appointment that is scheduled by the Therapist during that parent's possession time, even if those sessions do not involve that parent, or even if those sessions involve the other parent. If specifically requested by the Therapist, a parent may bring the child when it is not that parent's possession time, picking the child up and returning the child to their school, daycare, or other location at the time and manner designated by the Therapist.

IT IS ORDERED that the Therapist may make recommendations and referrals for individual therapists for the children and for the parents should replacement of a therapist be necessary..

### **COMMUNICATION**

IT IS ORDERED that the Therapist 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 litigation as deemed necessary by the Therapist.

IT IS ORDERED the parties shall execute any authorizations as requested by the Therapist to enable the Therapist to receive or provide information about the parties or the children in question. The parties shall notify the Therapist in writing within 24 hours of any changes in their contact information, legal representation, residency, or occupants of their home.

IT IS ORDERED that the Therapist shall have access to the parties' Our Family Wizard accounts. The parties are ORDERED to complete whatever forms are necessary for the Therapist to have such access.

**DURATION OF THERAPY [choose one]**

IT IS ORDERED that therapy shall continue for a minimum of \_\_\_\_\_ months, with reevaluation of the necessity of continued services based on the parties' progress in meeting Goals of Counseling as noted in "Attachment A."

IT IS ORDERED that therapy shall continue until the Therapist makes the recommendation that the Goals of Counseling as noted in "Attachment A" have been met, that no further progress is possible at this time, or that appointment of a different Therapist is necessary.

**PAYMENT**

IT IS ORDERED that the expense of the counseling services shall be divided between the parties as follows: \_\_\_\_\_% Petitioner \_\_\_\_\_% Respondent \_\_\_\_\_% Intervenor, with the exception that the Therapist may assess to each party a pro rata share for time expended for reviewing documentation, out-of-session time, and other individual services.

Each party is ORDERED to pay his or her portions of the initial retainer and fees directly to the Therapist within seven days of the Therapist's request for payment, and each party is ORDERED to pay any additional amounts due directly to the Therapist within seven days of the Therapist's request for payment. If a parent cancels a therapy session less than 72 hours prior to

the scheduled session time or fails to bring the child(ren) to a scheduled appointment during that parent's period of possession, that parent shall be responsible for 100% of the cancellation fees.

***[WHEN ADDITIONAL PAYMENT PROVISIONS ARE NEEDED***

***CONSIDER SELECTING FROM THE FOLLOWING]***

The foregoing payment provisions apply except for the following situations: ***[choose one or more as appropriate; check which apply]***

- Joint sessions with both parents. If both parties participate in a joint session, with or without the child(ren) in question, the cost shall be equally divided between the parties.
- Individual sessions with a parent. If a parent has an individual session with the Therapist, with or without the child(ren) in question, the parent shall pay 100% of the cost of such sessions.
- Review of documents. If a party, the party's legal counsel, or anyone acting on the party's behalf, requests that the Therapist review any documents, that party shall pay 100% of the cost for the time involved in such review. If the request is made jointly, the costs shall be equally divided between the parties.
- Communication with the Therapist. If a party, the party's legal counsel, or anyone acting on the party's behalf, requests to communicate with the Therapist, that party shall pay 100% of any cost. If the request is made jointly, the costs shall be equally divided between the parties.
- Communication with third parties. If the Therapist communicates with a Parenting Facilitator, any of the parties' or the child(ren)'s individual Therapists, or any other professional in connection with this litigation, the cost shall be equally divided between the parties.
- Appearances. If either party requests that the Therapist make an appearance in connection with the litigation, including depositions, hearings, trials, settlement conferences, or any other formal meeting,

the cost shall be equally divided between the parties. *[OR]*

the cost shall be paid by the party who requests the Therapist's appearance.

Written Reports. The cost of any written report that is requested shall be equally divided between the parties.

### **THERAPIST TESTIMONY**

IT IS ORDERED that the Therapist 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 Therapist via fax or e-mail. Unless payment for testimony is already addressed above, the requesting party shall be responsible for the Therapist's customary and usual fees for testifying and said fees shall be paid at least seven days prior to the hearing in the manner specified by the Therapist.

Therapy is not a substitute for a Child Custody Evaluation within the terms of Family Code Chapter 107; therefore, the Therapist shall not make recommendations as to the conservatorship of, possession (parenting schedule) of, or access to the child(ren). The Therapist may make recommendations to the parties regarding changes in conduct that may be helpful to the parties in implementing the Court's orders.

The Court finds that the immunity afforded to the Therapist through appointment by the Court is often insufficient to protect that Therapist from defending against a complaint filed with the Texas State Board of Examiners. The Court further finds that it is in the best interest of the children, the parties, and the public, that the Therapist should be allowed to follow the Court's Order without fear of reprisal for conducting services and making recommendations consistent with this order. Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that prior to a party, attorney, or person(s) acting on behalf of a party or attorney subpoenaing, issuing notice of intent to take the deposition of, or filing a complaint against the Therapist with any Texas State Board, a motion be set and heard by

the Court. Failure to so do can result in sanctions, attorney fees, and/or contempt proceedings.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Signed on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Presiding

AGREED:

Printed Name:

Printed Name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bar Number:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bar Number:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Respondent

**EXHIBIT A**  
**GOALS OF COUNSELING**

The Court has found it in the child(ren)'s best interests to have ongoing contact and meaningful relationships with both parents. The following goals are intended to help the child(ren) have genuine relationships with both parents while minimizing exposure to adult issues.

The primary goals of counseling shall be as follows: [*Indicate goals as appropriate to the case*]

**PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION**

- Improve the parent-child/adult-child relationship between the child(ren) and
  - Mother  Father  Both parents  Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Work with each parent and child to identify and separate each child's needs and views from each parent's needs and views
- Foster healthy child adjustment

**PARENTING FOCUSED ISSUES**

- Address emotional and behavioral problems of the parent(s) that impair compliance with, or implementation of, the court-ordered parenting time schedule
- Improve the parents' understanding regarding the negative developmental repercussions for the child(ren) of disrupted or compromised relationships with their parents
- Help each parent to distinguish valid concerns from overly negative, critical, and generalized views relating to the other parent
- Improve parental communication regarding their child(ren)'s needs
- Reduce conflict regarding parenting time schedules
- Improve the quality of parenting skills
- Increase parental insight regarding interpersonal issues
- Protecting and removing the child(ren) from parental conflict
- Fostering the child(ren)'s healthy relationship with *both* parents

**CHILD BEHAVIOR FOCUSED ISSUES**

- Address emotional and behavioral problems of the child(ren) that impair compliance with or implementation of the court-ordered parenting time schedule
- Assist the child(ren) to differentiate themselves from others and assist both the child(ren) and adults in understanding age-appropriate autonomy
- Increase child insight regarding interpersonal issues
- Augment the child(ren)'s coping skills and improve appropriate expressions of the child(ren)'s emotional experiences
- Replace distorted impressions with more realistic perceptions that reflect the child(ren)'s actual experience with both parents

**OTHER ISSUES**

- Gain additional healthy coping skills regarding: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Address the following specific issues: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The parties have been advised that the Court will consider the good faith efforts and parties' devotion to success of therapy as a factor in determining whether to modify the current order, including expanding or restricting parenting time provisions. The parties have been advised that successful therapy often requires that they make changes in their own behavior and parenting to support their child(ren)'s needs. The Therapist may request specific changes by the parties 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 shall make reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Therapist's requests in these areas.