



DIVORCE AND CUSTODY AGREEMENT

Information and Guidelines for Working with Divorce and/or Custody Cases

1. Center for Cognitive Therapy (CCTA) therapists are not custody evaluators or parent mediators. We will not make recommendations to the court or others specific to custody or visitation.
2. CCTA therapists require parents to provide a copy of the most current court order at the time of service intake. This document typically specifies parental legal status, outlines or addresses the custodial rights of each parent and/or provides a parenting agreement that is signed by both parents and a Judge. Please note that CCTA therapists will not provide services without a copy of the most recent court order. The intake will be rescheduled once this documentation is provided.
3. CCTA therapists will consult with any professional involved in the case, including but not limited to a court ordered Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), Parent Coordinator or Mediator, and/or a Custody Evaluator. Parents will be asked to authorize such contact and/or authorization resulting from a court order. Time consulting with other professionals will be billed at your provider's standard hourly rate, or the fee agreed upon with your provider at service intake.
4. CCTA therapists will be in contact with both parents who share legal custody of the minor client and will offer and encourage opportunities to exchange impressions of the client with both legal guardians throughout assessment or treatment. In addition, a therapist's advice or guidance will be provided to both parents.
5. All clients have the right to subpoena their child's record and request that therapists testify in court as Expert or Fact witnesses. Given that it is my role as the child's therapist to create a safe environment for the child to express difficult thoughts and feelings about separation or divorce, releasing this private information in court may have a negative impact on the child's treatment. By signing this agreement, you are acknowledging that it would not be in your child's best interest to subpoena their records or compel CCTA therapists to testify in court.

6. In the case that the above recommendation regarding subpoenas and court is waived and I am subpoenaed to appear in court you will be billed the full standard court fee (300.00/hour) for all court-related services. CCTA therapists will bill for time dedicated to actual, delayed, or postponed appearances, especially when clients have been canceled. In addition, professional communications with lawyers and/or GAL or other relevant parties; time spent traveling to and from court; time spent waiting to testify, and; time spent testifying will be charged at the abovementioned rate

7. Separated caregivers will be asked to provide an email address that can be used to contact both parents at the same time to convey practical information or scheduling related matters. Separated caregivers will be asked to attend meetings related to services of the child at the same time. This can mitigate the risk of miscommunication among the involved parties.

Signature of client (or guardian, if applicable)

Date

Relationship to client

Signature of client (or guardian, if applicable)

Date

Relationship to client

Signature of CCTA Provider

Date