

THERAPEUTIC VISITATION OVERSIGHT SUPERVISION AGREEMENT

About your Provider:

Barbara Melton, M.Ed., is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in private practice in Summerville, South Carolina. One of the many services she offers is *Therapeutic Visitation Oversight Supervision*.

Description of Services:

It is important to note that although the result is often therapeutic, this service is *not therapy* and does not have the same level of confidentiality that counseling services are afforded, and these services are not reimbursable by insurance.

Typically the first order of business is to conduct several interviews so as to gain insight into the case in order to make recommendations as to how to proceed with telephone, webcam, and/or physical visitation *unless such recommendations have already been made by the Court, Guardian ad Litem in the case, DSS, or other official(s)*. This usually entails a physical or telephone interview with the child(ren)'s parents/guardians/caretakers, any therapists that may be involved in the case (hence Releases would need to be signed) and the Guardian ad Litem for the child(ren) if any have been appointed. I may also find it necessary in these types of cases to talk with professionals who work with the parents/ guardians/caretakers in order to verify compliance with mandated or recommended services (i.e. therapy, medications, treatment, etc.) In order for me to do my job completely, Releases would need to be provided so that these professionals can speak with me. I would also require copies of any court Orders in place or other documentation that would be relevant to visitation with the child(ren).

Once recommendations have been made and accepted by all parties, *including the GAL, if involved*, implementation can take place. Some level of psycho-education or parent coaching may occur in these cases as necessary; the stated goal is usually to move towards a healthy, balanced relationship with the visiting parent. In order for this to proceed, conversations involving the child(ren) should be restricted to subject matter age-appropriate to the child(ren). Discussions during visits will focus on the child(ren)'s activities, schoolwork, and progress. Adult concerns such as court proceedings, and opinions that lend a negative air about the other parent, should be avoided in front of the child(ren).

In cases involving parents who are not in the area, Skype or Oovoo [webcam] visitation is an option, where all parties are on the line by video at the same time but the supervisor's photo is static. The supervisor can mute or end the conversation at any time. The supervisor would initiate the call to one party and then conference in the other party/parties.

In cases where the parent can make physical visits, visitation oversight can take various forms including constant uninterrupted supervision, random checks, bookending (delivering child(ren) to site and picking up child(ren) from site), or anything in between, and can occur in an office setting, home setting, or naturalized off-site location (park, etc). Visitation often moves over time from full supervision, to partial supervision, to little/no supervision, all with the approval/agreement of all

necessary parties. For in-person visitation oversight where safety of the child has been an issue in the past, a monitoring system can be put into place where a tone will be played on a device which will indicate to the person in the waiting room that assistance is needed.

FEES: \$100 hourly rate for visitation oversight (whether on-site or by telephone), interviews, psycho-educational services; communications with GAL, therapists, parents/caregivers or other relevant parties; \$25 per hour travel or transportation fee (when applicable); court appearance or deposition appearance fees and formal report-writing \$100 hr. Initially a \$1,000 retainer will be necessary to be paid prior to work commencing (it is acceptable for the responsible party's attorney(s) to hold funds and disburse out of this sum when detailed billing is presented if preferred); afterwards, monthly bills can be sent to attorney(s) or any other designated person for processing.

_____ agrees to provide all necessary Releases in order for the Visitation Supervisors to perform the before-mentioned functions.

_____ further agrees to pay the sum of \$1,000 as a retainer for these services and abide by the fee structure described in this document.

By signature on this document, _____ acknowledges (s)he has read the document fully and understands the terms of the services to be provided.

Barbara Melton agrees to provide the services set forth herein and to send detailed billing for services rendered on a monthly basis to _____ at _____, with invoices to be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice. If any invoice remains unpaid after 30 days, Barbara Melton reserves the right to withhold future services until unpaid balances are resolved.

Witness

Dated: _____

WITNESS:

Barbara Melton

Dated: _____