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CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR CO-PARENT EDUCATION

1. THE CO-PARENTING EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

A. Role of the Co-Parent Educator: The Co-Parent(s) understand that the Co-Parent Educator's role is to educate Co-Parent(s) using the Co-Parenting Curricula designed by the Co-Parenting Educator. The Co-Parent Educator will encourage the Co-Parent(s) to begin to facilitate conversations which reduce conflict and build skills for successful communication and decision making. After Co-Parenting Education is completed, the Co-Parent(s) may choose to continue to work with the Co-Parenting Educator through either Co-Parenting Consulting or through Co-Parenting Coaching. (Through Co-Parenting Consulting, the Co-Parenting Consultant works with one or more Co-Parents to advise and plan how best to move forward after discussing a particular problem. Through Co-Parenting Coaching, the coach works with one or more Co-Parents work collaboratively to co-create the steps each parent is willing and able to take to effectively reach Co-Parenting goals. The Co-Parenting Coach is a guide and inspiration for creating effective interactional patterns between Co-Parents and children.)

The Co-Parent Educator is not an investigator, decision maker or custody evaluator; rather, the educator will provide:

- a welcoming setting for structured learning
- facilitation of interest-based conversations
- education about positive co-parenting practices, the process of transitions and the impact of conflict on children
- education about behavior management and emotion regulation practices
- communication and conflict resolution skill-building
- support for stress-management and self-care
- helpful tips to empower clients to achieve listed goals and productive changes

The Co-Parent Educator is NOT serving in the role of a therapist, counselor, social worker, coach or consultant. The Coach is also NOT a Mediator or a Parent Coordinator. The Co-Parent Educator is also NOT authorized to give legal advice. If these services are desired or recommended, the Co-Parenting Educator will discuss this with the Co-Parent(s) and make a referral within The Divorce and Mediation Center or, if needed, to another agency.

B. Role of the Parent(s): The Co-Parent(s) understand that the Co-Parent(s)' role is to answer the Co-Parent Educator's questions as completely and honestly as possible, to engage to the fullest extent possible in the learning process, to follow through with the positive strategies to the best of the Co-Parent(s)' ability, and to give feedback to the Co-Parent Educator as completely and honestly as possible regarding the learning process and the implementation of the selected strategies.

C. Collaboration between Co-Parent Educator and Co-Parent(s): The Co-Parent(s) understand that Co-Parent Education is a learning process in which the Co-Parent Educator educates the Co-Parent(s) to discover Co-Parenting work, goals, effective parenting strategies, communication and conflict resolution skills, self-care and emotion regulation skills within the given educational period. Co-Parent(s) are expected to mindfully pay attention, participate and ask questions when something is unclear to facilitate in the learning process.

2. POLICIES

A. Appointments: Appointments with the Co-Parent Educator shall be scheduled at the direction of the Co-Parent Educator or by request of the Co-Parent(s) by phone, email, text or in person. Sessions may take place in person or online, based off the Co-Parent Educator's discretion. Standard appointments are 60 minutes in length, except the initial meeting which is 90 minutes. The Co-Parent(s) may request additional time, if desired. However, whether or not session extensions will be granted is up to the staff member's discretion and schedule.

B. Confidentiality: Any sharing of information between the Co-Parent(s) and any other party depends upon the parameters of why Co-Parenting Education is necessary. If Co-Parenting Education is Court-Ordered (either by the Court or a Parent Coordinator), the Co-Parenting Educator is required to communicate with the Judge or Court-Appointed Parent Coordinator to determine if Co-Parent(s) fulfilled their Court-Ordered obligations. With these exceptions, any sharing of information between the Co-Parent(s) and any other party requires an authorization form signed by the Co-Parent(s) giving written permission for a release of information. Either parent may request a conversation or meeting with the Co-Parent Educator without the knowledge or consent of the other parent.

C. Cancelled or missed appointments: The Co-Parent(s) shall pay in full for any cancelled or missed appointments unless 48-hour cancellation notice is given.

D. Obstructions to productive meetings: The Co-Parent Educator will promptly end any session that includes personal criticism or aggressive behavior toward the Co-Parent Educator. The Co-Parent Educator also expects Co-Parent(s) to be punctual and ready for the meetings. This includes, but is not limited to, bringing or having at the ready handouts given to Co-Parent(s) and keeping a notebook or folder of all handouts, participating in exercises and completing homework. If meetings are to be held virtually, Co-Parent(s) are expected to be in a place with reliable Wi-Fi and are expected to give the same care and attention as they would as if the meeting were taking place in-person. For instance, if a client is driving or in a place with multiple distractions, the meeting may end at the discretion of the Co-Parenting Educator, and Co-Parent(s) shall still pay in full for the session.

E. Obstructions to productive joint meetings: The Co-Parent Educator will promptly end any session that includes personal criticism or aggressive behavior toward the other parent or to the Co-Parent Educator. The party using unconstructive behavior shall pay for the cancelled session.

3. FEES

The fee for the Initial Assessment and Consultation is \$90/person or \$140/couple for 90 minute session. The fee for Co-Parenting Education is \$60/hour per individual or \$90/hour per couple Co-Parent(s) shall pay for appointments at the time of service. Alternative arrangements may be made in advance at the request of the Parent(s).

4. DISCLOSURE

Co-Parent(s) understand that the Co-Parent Educator is obligated under law to disclose the following information to appropriate authorities: 1) allegations of abuse or neglect of a child, 2) allegations of abuse or neglect of an elderly person, and 3) threats of harm to other people or to yourself.

THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED TO:

_____	_____
Co-Parent Signature	Date
_____	_____
Co-Parent Signature	Date
_____	_____
Co-Parenting Coach Family Mediation & Divorce Center	Date