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CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR PARENT EDUCATION

1. THE PARENTING EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

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

The 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 parenting practices, the process of using positive discipline techniques and the impact of using choices with children
- education about behavior management and emotion regulation practices
- the importance on connection, attachment, modeling, encouragement and play
- communication and conflict resolution skill-building
- support for emotion regulation, stress-management and self-care
- helpful tips to empower clients to achieve listed goals and productive changes

The Parent Educator is NOT serving in the role of a therapist, counselor, social worker, coach or consultant. The Coach is also NOT a Mediator. The Parent Educator also is NOT authorized to diagnose or treat mental health disorders or give legal advice. If these services are desired or recommended, the Parenting Educator will discuss this with the 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 Parent(s) understand that the Parent(s)' role is to answer the 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 Parent(s)' ability, and to give feedback to the Parent Educator as completely and honestly as possible regarding the learning process and the implementation of the selected strategies. The Parent(s) agree to take ownership of commitment to creating meaningful goals, any work progress and accomplishments. Education (or Coaching and Consultation) does not offer any guarantee of success or definitive changed behavior of your child(ren); however, the more the Parent(s) are committed to the work, the more beneficial the service and experience will be.

C. Collaboration between Parent Educator and Parent(s): The Parent(s) understand that Parent Education is a learning process in which the Parent Educator educates the Parent(s) to discover Parenting work, goals, effective parenting strategies, communication and conflict resolution skills, self-care and emotion regulation skills, etc. within the given educational period. 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 Parent Educator shall be scheduled at the direction of the Parent Educator or by request of the Parent(s) by phone, email, text or in person. Sessions may take place in person or online, based on the Parent Educator's discretion. Standard appointments are 60 minutes in length, except the initial consultation and assessment, which is 90 minutes. The 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. Cancelled or missed appointments: The Parent(s) shall pay in full for any cancelled or missed appointments unless 48-hour cancellation notice is given.

C. Session time: The Parent Educator expects 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 Parent(s) and keeping a notebook or folder of all handouts, participating in exercises, and completing homework.

D. Obstructions to productive meetings: The Parent Educator will promptly end any session that includes unreasonable personal criticism or aggressive behavior toward the Parent Educator. If meetings are to be held virtually, 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 if the meeting were taking place in-person. This includes finding childcare, as needed, so Parent(s) may speak freely in session while practicing healthy parenting boundaries. Additionally, Parent(s) are expected to NOT be driving or in a place with multiple distractions. If this occurs, the meeting may need to end and be rescheduled at the discretion of the Parenting Educator, and Parent(s) shall still pay in full for the session.

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

3. Confidentiality

A. Court-Requirements: Any sharing of information between the Parent(s) and any other party depends upon the parameters of why Parenting Education is necessary. If Parenting Education is Court-Ordered (either by the Court or a Court-Appointed Parent Coordinator), the Parenting Educator is required to communicate with the Judge or Court-Appointed Parent Coordinator to determine if Parent(s) fulfilled their Court-Ordered obligations.

B. Abuse/Neglect: Additionally, if information has been given that indicates a child, elderly or disabled person is being abused or neglected, Family Mediation and Divorce Center staff is obligated by law to report this information to the appropriate local agencies for the protection of that person as all staff members are mandated reporters.

C. Imminent Threat: Moreover, if a client is in imminent risk to herself/himself or makes serious threats of imminent violence against another person, Family Mediation and Divorce Center staff is obligated by law to report this information to the appropriate local agencies for the protection of that person as all staff members are mandated reporters.

D. Release of Information: With the exceptions of the caveats listed above, Family Mediation and Divorce Center staff takes necessary precautions to protect the confidentiality of all of their clients. Any sharing of information between the Parent(s) and any other party requires an authorization form signed by the Parent(s) giving written permission for a release of information. Either parent may request a conversation or meeting with the Parent Educator without the knowledge or consent of the other parent.

4. FEES

A. Parent(s) shall complete Family Mediation and Divorce Center's Credit Card Authorization form so that sessions may be billed by our administrative assistant either at the time of service or afterwards. Alternative arrangements may be made at the request of the Parent(s) during completion of Intake Paperwork.

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

BY SIGNING THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND SCHEDULING A SESSION, THE PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED ACKNOWLEDGE THE ABOVE TERMS AND AGREE TO ALL THE CONDITIONS AND POLICIES OF THE FAMILY MEDIATION AND DIVORCE CENTER:

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Parenting Team Member

Date

SAMPLE