

**Elizabeth Matola, MSW, LCSW
Mindful Therapy & Consulting, LLC
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**Mediation/ Child Specialist/ Parenting Consultation
Participation Agreement**

Goals of the Mediator/ Child Specialist/ Parenting Consultant include assisting parents to:

1. Communicate about child-related issues in constructive and respectful manner.
2. Allow and encourage children to love both parents and protect the children from parental conflict and loyalty binds.
3. Establish quality parenting in both homes; support movement of child through normal developmental tasks; provide consistency and predictability as well as flexibility; work toward some coordination of household routines, responsibilities, discipline methods, limits and expectations.
4. Keep the stress and problems of living in two home to a minimum; encourage children to feel comfortable being open and sharing all aspects of their lives.
5. If there is not already a workable parenting plan in place, develop a parenting plan that is appropriate to the children's needs and developmental level.
6. If there are difficulties, challenges, or concerns with the existing parenting plan, review and revise the plan so as to better meet the needs of children.

Role of the Mediator/Child Specialist/Parenting Consultant:

1. Provide a "safe" place for discussion where the focus is on children's needs.
2. Serve as a specialist who can offer parents information and guidance with respect to what is in the best interest fo their children, taking into consideration developmental stage, individual strengths, weaknesses, temperament, and needs.
3. As appropriate, meet with the children to allow them to express feelings, thoughts, and concerns about what is happening to them. Give them a "voice" and an avenue to express thoughts and feelings to the parents through a "neutral" professional.
4. Be an advocate for the children.
5. Facilitate resolution of differences.

Confidentiality:

Issues and concerns addressed in sessions with the mediator/child specialist/parenting consultant will remain confidential. Exceptions include: if there is reason to believe that anyone seen is of danger to himself or others, if there is an expressed intent to harm someone, or if there is reasonable suggestion of child abuse or neglect. Under no circumstances will the child specialist/parenting consultant/mediator testify on behalf of

or against any party who has been named in this agreement. By signing this participation agreement, the client waives any right to have the mediator/child specialist/parenting consultant testify in a court of law. Furthermore, the client agrees that he/she will not subpoena the mediator/child specialist/parenting consultant or the records to court. If children are seen, they will be advised that the mediator/child specialist/parenting consultant will be sharing information with their parents. If both parents agree and sign consent forms, the mediator/child specialist/parenting consultant may communicate with the respective attorneys.

Fees:

All meetings will be billed at \$200 per hour. Fees are due at the time of service. Most sessions will be provided in person, however, if extended telephone time is needed, these will be billed at \$50 per 15 minute segments. In some cases a retainer fee of \$600 may be required. No insurance benefits can be utilized for these services.

Election to Terminate:

If either party or the mediator/child specialist/parenting consultant decides that this process is no longer viable or constructive, the decision to terminate will be honored.

Limitations:

The mediator/child specialist/parenting consultant does not guarantee success or elimination of past disharmony and irreconcilable differences.

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Mediation/Child Specialist/Parenting Consultation Agreement

I have read the agreement in its entirety, understand the content, and agree to its terms.

(Client Signature)

(Date)

(Client Signature)

(Date)

(Mediator/Child Specialist/Parenting Consultant Signature)

(Date)