

**PROVISIONS FOR PROVIDING RECOMMENDING MEDIATION**

When parties involved in a custody conflict wish to resolve their differences by mediation, rather than litigation, it is crucial that they understand that this process occurs in a legal context. This is best accomplished by the parties reviewing and signing this agreement.

We wish to enlist Dr. Sullivan's services in helping resolve our child custody and coparenting issues. Accordingly, we agree to participate in Dr. Sullivan's mediation procedures. We recognize that this is a non-confidential process. We agree that if we do not reach agreement about any issues presented in the mediation process that Dr. Sullivan will provide recommendations about those issues to the attorneys and the court. Any information provided by either parent and/or provided by Dr. Sullivan may be shared in the family court procedures that review any recommendations provided by the mediator. Dr. Sullivan will prepare drafts of agreements reached for review by the parties and attorneys. These will be for the purpose of reaching agreements and not for any subsequent litigation purposes.

The following circumstances also require Dr. Sullivan to disclose information to relevant reporting agencies. We have been informed that under California statutes: a) if a patient communicates to a therapist a serious threat to harm an identifiable person, the therapist must warn that person and the police; (b) if the therapist suspects child abuse or neglect, or abuse of a dependent adult or of a person over the age of 65, a report must be made to the appropriate agency; and (c) if a patient seems dangerous to self or other, or is unable to care for him or herself, hospitalization may be required.

We understand that if we do not agree to some areas of our parenting plan, or issues arise in the implementation of that plan that we cannot resolve, Dr. Sullivan will to provide recommendations to the parents. They may then elect to abide by those recommendations, or submit their objections to the Court. Further, we understand that information and records and/or testimony concerning my family or me may be required as part of the legal process to resolve these parenting plan disagreements.

We agreed to pay Dr. Sullivan's fees (as allocated by agreement or order of the Court), which are \$300.00 per hour. We will provide an initial retainer of \$1500.00. The fees will cover all of Dr. Sullivan's work, including time spent in meetings, drafting agreements, talking with attorneys, and testifying in court.

We have read the above and agree to proceed with the mediation.

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Signature

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Signature

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Date

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Date