



Erickson Counseling & Mediation PLLC

11107 McCracken Circle #A Cypress, TX 77429

Ericksoncounseling.com

832-455-5729

Reunification Therapy Agreement

We, _____ and _____,
have entered into an agreement with Erickson Counseling & Mediation PLLC to serve as a Reunification Therapist (RT) for us and our child(ren). This agreement shall serve as a binding contract and may not be rescinded without mutual written agreement.

GENERAL

Reunification therapy is typically recommended when there has been a significant breakdown in the relationship between a parent and child, often due to factors such as parental conflict, divorce, or prolonged separation. In some cases, the child(en) may have developed negative beliefs or attitudes towards the parent, or there may be barriers preventing the parent and child from effectively communicating or reconnecting. It is understandable that disagreements, even overt and covert hostility, will exist between parties. We understand that the children's best interest is that parents do not engage in excessive conflict. To that end we will attempt to deescalate disagreements whenever possible in a civil, respectful manner.

One of the fundamental principles and requirements of reunification therapy is to create a safe and supportive environment where both the parent and child feel heard, validated, and respected. The therapist works to establish trust and rapport with each family member, providing a nonjudgmental space where they can openly express their thoughts, feelings, and concerns.

Assessment: The therapist conducts a comprehensive assessment of the family dynamics, including the reasons for the estrangement, the needs of each family member, and any potential safety concerns. This assessment helps inform the development of a tailored treatment plan.

Through structured interventions and therapeutic techniques, such as role-playing, communication exercises, and emotion-regulation strategies, the therapist helps the parent and child develop new ways of relating to each other. This may involve addressing past conflicts, repairing ruptures in the relationship, and establishing healthy boundaries, structure and expectations moving forward.

In addition to addressing the parent-child relationship directly, reunification therapy may also involve collaboration with other professionals involved in the family's care, such as attorneys, social workers, or court-appointed guardians. This multidisciplinary approach ensures that all aspects of the family's well-being are considered and supported throughout the reunification process.

It's important to recognize that reunification therapy is not always a linear or quick process. Healing deep-seated wounds and rebuilding (or building) trust takes time, patience, and consistent effort from all parties involved. Setbacks and challenges may arise along the way, but with dedication and support, families can work through these obstacles and ultimately achieve greater understanding, connection, and harmony within their relationships.



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Overall, reunification therapy offers hope and healing for families who have experienced estrangement or disconnection. By providing a structured framework for reconciliation and growth, it empowers parents and children to rebuild their relationship and create a more positive and resilient family dynamic for the future. Under certain circumstances, the court has required a party access to the family unit attempting to build or rebuild a relationship with children. The family dynamic will be respected, protected and guarded to maximum capabilities.

We will respect the RT and consider their recommendations. The RT is impartial. If you feel unfairly treated, address it promptly. Misunderstandings or vulnerabilities can lead to resentment.

Appointments or telephone contacts with the RT may be scheduled at the request of either party. All parties agree to make a good faith effort to be available when contacts are requested. The RT phone number, email, and texting is available however a faster response will occur through respectful emails.

Erickson Counseling & Mediation PLLC's role as RT may not be terminated unilaterally by either party. It may be terminated by written agreement of both parties at any time. If a court order appointing ECM as our RT is in effect, it will be the parties' responsibility to take the necessary measures to vacate that appointment. If one party wishes to terminate the services of the RT over the objections of the other party, an order of the court will be required to remove him.

MEASURE OF PROGRESS

A common question is, "How progress is measured?" Clearly, each case is different; however, some common measures that indicates success in Reunification Therapy may include (list not exclusive):

1. Child(ren)'s uniquely identified measure of progress: (list not exhaustive)
2. Child(ren) no longer resists contact with a parent.
3. Child(ren) can sit in the same room without having an intense emotional response.
4. Child(ren) and parent engages in activities together.
5. Child(ren) completes task(s) and follows parental authority (e.g., completing chores when asked to do so).
6. Child(ren) socializes with extended family members.
7. Child(ren) resume court-ordered parenting time, such as over nights (Note: RT does not designate parenting time).

Please read the Blogs on ericksoncounseling.com defining Reunification Therapy as contrasted to Parallel Parenting and Parent Coordination / Facilitation. There are significant differences, and the RT will adhere to the ethical guidelines established by legal statutes and professional ethics. RT will consist of Reunification Therapy as dictated in the court order and will not be mental health counseling or any other therapeutic modality or procedure.



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Reunification Therapy Fee Scale

Depositions, court testimony, and transportation are billed at \$150 per hour. Fees for depositions and court appearances must be received 48 hours in advance, charged in minimum blocks of three hours including travel. The party issuing a subpoena covers all costs. If a court appearance is canceled, prompt notice is required. Fees paid for depositions and court testimony are non-refundable.

If an appointment is cancelled with less than 24 business hours notice the full fee for the appointment will be charged. If one party cancels an appointment with fewer than 24 hours notice or fails to show up for an appointment, that party will be responsible for the full fee for that session.

Intake session:	\$200 flat rate (\$100 per party)
Reunification Therapy:	\$150 flat rate per session (\$75 per party)
Email monitoring: (optional)	\$50 per email
Court Reports:	\$150 per hour minimum one (1) hour
Court Appearance:	\$150 per hour minimum three (3) hours.
Phone Calls:	Phone calls over 15 minutes will be billed at \$50 per 15 minutes. This includes correspondence with attorneys.

Signature of Party One

Signature of Party Two

Printed

Printed

Date

Date