

Litigation Policy

If you or your child (client) ever become involved in a divorce or custody dispute, I want you to understand and agree that I will not willingly provide evaluations or expert testimony in court. You should hire a different mental health professional for any evaluations or testimony you require. I would be happy to refer you to an individual that can provide this service. This position is based on two reasons: (1) My statements will be seen as biased in your child's favor because I have a therapy relationship with you and your child; and (2) the testimony might affect the therapy relationship I have with your child, and I must put that relationship first. Since the client-therapist relationship is built on trust with the foundation of that trust being confidentiality, it is often damaging to the therapeutic relationship for the therapist to be asked to present records to the court, testify whether factual or in an expert nature, in court or deposition. The therapist asks that clients only request a court appearance in extreme cases.

As previously stated, I will not voluntarily participate in any litigation or custody dispute, which involves the child (client) or other parties involved in the therapy relationship. I will generally not provide records or testimony unless compelled to do so. Should I be subpoenaed or ordered by a court of law to appear as a witness involving the child (client), the client's financially responsible party (caregiver) agrees to the following fees:

- \$200 hourly rate (rounded to the nearest half hour) with a 4 hour minimum.
 - This fee includes any time spent for preparation, travel or other time I have made myself available for such an appearance.
 - This minimum fee is due one week before requested court appearance.
- The client's financially responsible party (caregiver) will be billed for additional expenditures and payment is due at the time of service.
- Any documentation outside of normal business practice will be billed at \$50 per hour (rounded to the nearest half hour).
 - Normal business practice includes copies of your bill, missed work or school letters, Release of Information Forms, and other miscellaneous documents.

I understand and agree to the policies above.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

