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CONTRACT FOR PRIVATE RECOMMENDING MEDIATION SERVICES

Welcome

The following information is provided to help you make an informed decision about participating in private recommending mediation, as well as to inform you about office policies and the mediation process. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have after reviewing the enclosed information.

Licensure

I am licensed by the State of California and the State of Idaho as a Marriage and Family Therapist. I have a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology.

Mediation Goals

Mediation has one primary purpose: to help the parties discuss and have the opportunity to resolve disputed child custody and visitation matters. Recommending mediation, if stipulated to and/or ordered by the court, has a secondary purpose: to provide the court with necessary information including a custody/visitation recommendation if the parties are unable to reach a full agreement on such matters.

Limitations to Confidentiality

If a complete agreement on custody and visitation is achieved in private mediation, only the agreement will be prepared by the mediator and presented to the court. No further report shall be provided. If a complete agreement is not achieved, the mediator will provide a report to the court summarizing both the mediation process and any progress achieved towards an agreement. The mediator will also make a recommendation to the court for a custody/visitation order. To the extent that the mediator can be cross-examined regarding this report and/or any mediation agreements, the mediation discussions shall not be considered private or confidential.

In addition, information that would support allegations of child abuse or neglect, elder abuse or neglect, or dependent adult abuse or neglect will be reported. Threats of violence made towards others or self during mediation will not be treated confidentially nor would such threats be considered confidential communications under this agreement. Further, any admission or confession to a serious crime will not be treated with confidentiality. For purposes of this acknowledgment, a serious crime will be defined as an unlawful act which would constitute a felony under California or federal law.

Mediation sometimes necessitates my speaking with other professionals who may be involved with you and/or your children, and/or reviewing necessary records. I may ask for your written permission to contact such people.

Because mediation encourages trust and communication between the parties and requires trust between each party and the mediator, neither party should provide me with information that I cannot share with the other party. Unless the parties are meeting separately due to domestic violence concerns or to an agreed upon intake process, I will not discuss case-related issues with one party unilaterally. I am able to discuss logistical matters briefly with one party, however, such as appointment times or rescheduling of appointments. I prefer to communicate with parties on all such matters by email, with both parents being copied on the email.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read this form and have had any questions I had answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in mediation with Sue Mayo, MFT

Print Name

Signature

Date