

KN Mental Health Services

Divorce and Custody Case Policies

These policies are necessary due to research that shows when there is a high level of intense and/or hostile conflict between parents before, during, and after a divorce or custody case, the child or children involved are more likely to suffer from mental and emotional adjustment problems.

1. The role of *KN Mental Health Services* in divorce and custody cases is to provide therapeutic services to the child in order to have a safe place to express any and all emotions, feel heard, and learn coping skills. _____
2. If a legal separation or divorce has occurred, a copy of the most current standing court order demonstrating custodial rights for each parent/guardian, including all parts of any legally binding parenting agreement is required **PRIOR** to seeing the child. _____
3. A written, signed consent from both legal parents/guardians will be required **PRIOR** to seeing the child for therapy. I make every effort to include both parents in the therapy process and contact information for both parents will be necessary. _____
4. *KN Mental Health Services* policy in such cases is to communicate with both parents who share legal custody equally. This is to provide parent updates and progress reviews throughout the treatment process. If either parent/guardian wishes to share information or ask questions between sessions with *KN Mental Health Services*, a brief phone conversation can occur. However, after hearing from one parent, *KN Mental Health Services* will reach out to the other parent and allow equal opportunity for that parent to schedule time with *KN Mental Health Services*. Any communication between *KN Mental Health Services* and parent(s)/guardian will become part of your child's clinical record. Other than scheduling purposes, emails or texts will not be an accepted form of communication. _____
5. At some point during the therapy process, parent-child or family sessions may be necessary and both parents will be informed and updated. _____
6. *KN Mental Health Services* has a strict policy of **NOT** testifying in court or providing recommendations for custody. If this policy is disregarded and *KN Mental Health Services* is subpoenaed and court appearance is required, court fees of \$120.00 per hour will be charged which is *KN Mental Health Services* standard fee. This will include drive time, any time waiting in court, and meetings with lawyers, and time spent testifying.

7. If court fees are necessary, a credit card number will be obtained from both parents prior to any of the above-mentioned services taking place. _____

8. *KN Mental Health Services* has a policy that no clients or parents of child clients are permitted to record sessions, phone conversations, or any other communications without expressed, advanced, written permission from all parties (therapist, both parents and child). If a recording is obtained in violation of this policy, therapy will be terminated. *KN Mental Health Services* requires 4 final weekly sessions with child client in order to provide appropriate closure. _____

Parent/Caregiver Signature

Date

Therapist's Signature

Date