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AGREEMENT FOR COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW COACHING OR CHILD SPECIALIST

By signing this agreement, you give permission to Carol Hirshfield, PhD to provide Collaborative Family Law Coaching or Child Specialist Services. You are not entering into an agreement for Family therapy or Psychotherapy services.

THE COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

The goal of the Collaborative Family Law team is to help the divorcing couple to achieve a marital dissolution that minimizes the negative economic, social and emotional consequences that the family often experiences in the traditional adversarial divorce process.

In order to accomplish the goal, Attorneys, Mental Health and Financial professionals work together as a team to help address the issues of divorce and reach a marital dissolution. The divorcing couples uses new skills in settlement discussions and in post-divorce co-parenting if there are children involved.

THE ROLE OF THE COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE COACH

The Divorce Coach is a licensed Mental Health professional who works with one or both parties. In individual and joint meetings, the coaches work to do the following:

- 1) Identify and prioritize the concerns of each person.
- 2) Make effective use of conflict resolution and communication skills.
- 3) Develop and enhance effective co-parenting skills.

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- 4) Work collaboratively with the couple and the other professionals.

THE ROLE OF THE CHILD SPECIALIST

The Collaborative Divorce Child Specialist works with the children and the parents to do the following:

- 1) Provide the children with an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the divorce.
- 2) Provide the parents with information and guidance to help their children through this process.
- 3) Give information to the parties and the Collaborative team to help develop an effective parenting plan for the children.

MY PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT

During the initial consultation period, you and I will determine if I am an appropriate Collaborative Divorce Coach. If at any time while we are working together, I determine that you would benefit from work with a professional outside of the Collaborative team, such as a Psychotherapist or Physician, I will let you know and provide some names.

I will typically schedule sessions for an hour for a Divorce Coaching session, and an hour to an hour and a half for Child Specialist sessions. Full team sessions will be scheduled for one and a half to 2 hours, as needed.

If you will be late or need to cancel, please let me know. Cancellations need to be made before 48 hours, and if on a Monday, no later than Friday of the week before.

I check messages and emails often, but may not be immediately available for emergencies.

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While I am a Divorce Coach or Child specialist in this process, I am a Psychologist who is expected to report reasonable suspicion of threat of physical harm to self or others, threat of child abuse, or elder abuse to the appropriate authorities.

My services are \$300 per hour, for all time spent on this case. Initial retainer is \$1500.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CLIENT

- 1) Abide by legal standards which prohibit removing the minor child or children from the State without prior written consent.
- 2) Maintain confidentiality of all written document of sessions. These cannot be used in future adversarial processes, should there be any.
- 3) Fill out all legal forms in timely fashion, as necessary.
- 4) Work for the best interest of the family as whole.

CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY AND COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS

As the Divorce Coach or Child Specialist, we agree to have you communicate with the other people in the team as named below:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

If I find it would aid the Collaborative Divorce process for me to communicate with other professionals not on this team, I will ask for your written consent prior to any communication.

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WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS

If either party withdraws from the Collaborative Divorce Process, all materials of all collaborative team meetings, all oral and written communication remain confidential and may not be used in any future Court proceedings

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE DOCUMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY, UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

_____ Print Name

_____ Signature _____ Date

_____ Print Name

_____ Signature _____ Date