

Loretta Maase, M.A., LPC, NCC

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Parenting Facilitator Policies

1. **Client Rights** – You may expect a safe place to talk, to be supported, to be treated with respect and listened to objectively. I will provide guidance and direction that will facilitate your parenting relationship.
2. **Confidentiality** – Due to the nature of this work, confidentiality is not ensured. If you are involved in litigation, you can be assured that the judge will ask for reports on your progress and all attorneys will want information regarding your work with me. In order for me to facilitate conflict resolution between parents, it will be necessary for me to share the concerns of one parent with the other. However, your information will not be shared with anyone other than the Court, legal professionals involved in your case, or the other parent without your express written consent.
3. **Client Fees** – My fees are \$100 per hour and are prorated by the quarter hour entered. A \$500 retainer per parent is required to begin your account. Each parent will be asked to participate in an initial individual 80-minute session billed at \$150 ~ **in addition to the initial retainer.** Payment is due at the time of service. Additional retainer fees are split equally between parties unless otherwise agreed upon (in writing) by the parties or mandated through an order of the court. Retainer funds will be utilized for occasional child sessions when necessary, review of relevant documentation, phone calls, written correspondence (including email), any other form of communication that needs to occur (outside of joint or individual sessions), in order to provide services to you.

After the initial individual sessions for each parent, subsequent sessions are often joint (80-minutes in duration), billed at \$150 (split between the parties) and payment is due at the time of service. Any additional individual sessions are the financial responsibility of the party having the session, billed at \$100 for a 50-minute session. Failure to maintain current fees will result in service delay or termination of services.

Fees for parenting facilitator work are typically split equally between parties. Exceptions to this are: 1) one party has an individual session and will be responsible for paying the full fee; 2) one party is causing a disproportionate amount of conflict which results in an inordinate amount of my time to intervene; or 3) the decree or court order specifies otherwise.

4. **Cancellations** – Should you need to cancel your appointment, please call at least 24 hours in advance. Cancellations with less than 24 hour notification will be billed as a full session, as will missed appointments, and be charged against your retainer. Efforts will be made to reschedule when possible.
5. **Joint sessions between parents will be respectful.** There will be no name calling or purposefully hurtful comments made. A client engaging in inappropriate behavior during the sessions will be asked one time to cease such behavior. If the same client repeats the behavior a second time, the session will be called to a stop, rescheduled, and this client will be responsible for the full payment of that session. The goal of parent facilitation is to decrease conflict between parents so that they are able to parent their children more effectively and *without trauma*. A considerable amount of research reveals that the degree of resilience in children following divorce is directly tied to the ability of their parents to cooperate, co-parent peacefully with one another, and shield the children from conflict. Conversely, children’s inability to adjust and function well is directly proportional to the degree of conflict between their parents. Children do not have to suffer long-term negative repercussions ***IF parents are able to manage their differences effectively***. To this end, you can expect that I will educate you on the appropriate ways to handle issues with your former partner. I will confront you when you are behaving in unhealthy ways with your former partner or your child(ren). I may refer you to a counselor or other professional if I see the need for additional intervention. Parent facilitation will not be effective unless BOTH parties are cooperative and open to *learning about themselves*, their child(ren)’s needs, their parenting, and their communication patterns. Parent facilitation is not an appropriate process for parents who wish to continue to fight with his/her former partner, or focus on the past or shame and blame the other parent. The appropriate venue for such parents is a Court of Law, where control of what happens no longer belongs to the parents, and instead belongs to a Judge, whose decisions cannot always be predicted.
6. By signing this form, you are agreeing to all of the policies stated here. Most importantly, you are agreeing that you will focus on the best interests of your child(ren) in the PRESENT, and make every effort to find common ground. I reserve the right to discontinue services if I feel one or both parties are not being cooperative or if I feel I am not able to provide services that will be useful to both parties, and ultimately to your child(ren).

Client Signature

Date

Client Signature

Date



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PARENTING SERVICES INFORMATION SHEET

FILL IN YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

Court cause no _____ Judge ordering _____ County _____
Marriage date _____ Date of separation _____ / divorce _____
Date ordered _____ Next scheduled hearing date _____

MOTHER:
Name _____
Address _____
Phone [H] _____ [W] _____
Fax _____ Cell _____
Email _____

FATHER:
Name _____
Address _____
Phone [H] _____ [W] _____
Fax _____ Cell _____
Email _____

MOTHER'S Attorney:
Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____

Father's Attorney:
Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____

CHILD/REN:
Name _____ Date of birth _____ With whom primarily residing _____

CHILD/REN's Attorney/s:
Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____

OTHER PARTY:
Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____

LEGAL DECISIONS PENDING: ___ Pre-divorce OR ___ Post-divorce OR ___ Never married
Dissolution of marriage _____
Spousal maintenance: _____
Property settlement: _____
Child support: _____
Conservatorship: _____
Parent to establish primary residence: _____
Parental access: _____
Relocation: _____
Modification: _____
Enforcement: _____

Is a Protective Order in place: ___ yes ___ no

Send to: Loretta Maase, M.A., P.O. Box 90874 Austin, Texas 78709-0874

