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**INFORMED CONSENT TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF A
CHILD SPECIALIST IN COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE PROCESS**

Between: Amber Lawrence, LMHP, LMFT, Child Specialist

_____ Client

_____ Client

Date: _____

The Child Specialist is a neutral third party whose job is to understand the situation from the perspective of the children and to advocate for their best interests. Although all team members keep the child(ren)'s best interests in mind, the Child Specialist maintains this focus exclusively throughout, thereby assuring, that the concerns of the children are not overshadowed by other, equally important considerations. The Child Specialist provides an opportunity for the children to ask questions and to identify problems or worries, and provides information and suggestions to the parents and to the team, especially in the development of a co-parenting plan. In addition to talking to the children the Child Specialist will be collecting information about the children from both parents and will be communicating with the Divorce Coaches and Attorneys and Financial Specialist regarding the needs of the children.

As a Child Specialist I will be providing, the children with an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding your divorce, provide you with information and guidance to help your child(ren) through this process, and give information to the coaching team that will help in developing an effective co-parenting plan.

Your responsibilities in this process will be to:

- 1) Make every effort to reach amicable solutions that promote the children's best interests;
- 2) Act quickly to mediate and resolve differences related to the children, to promote a caring, loving, and involved relationship between the children and both parents.
- 3) Avoid inappropriate communications regarding your relationship that can be harmful to your child(ren).
- 4) Agree not to discuss settlement issues in the presence of your children or communicate with them regarding these issues unless it is appropriate and done by mutual agreement, or on the advice of the Child Specialist.
- 5) Not to make any changes to the residence of the child(ren) without first obtaining the written agreement of the other Party.

- 6) Maintain the confidentiality of all content (written or oral) of the sessions with the children and agree that under no circumstances will any of this content be used in any future adversarial process.
- 7) Work for the best interest of the family as a whole.

Understandings

- 1) The Child Specialist has been retained for the limited purpose of assisting the parents and child(ren) through the Collaborative Divorce process. If therapy or counseling is needed or desired the Child Specialist will refer to another person for longer term or more generalized assistance.
- 2) The Child Specialist is expected to discuss the concerns regarding the children with the other professionals on the team. The client has signed a separate document, attached hereto, waiving his/her confidentiality privileges between all members of the Collaborative Divorce Team.
- 3) The Child Specialist will be paid by the client on the following terms: \$150.00 per 60 minute meeting, or a prorated calculation of this, depending on the length of the meeting. This fee will include services such as phone calls, emails, consultations, or time spent outside the actual meetings (for example: typing or dictating of session notes and/or parenting plan). A 24-hour advance notice of cancellation is required. Because appointment times are reserved exclusively for the client, the client will pay the full fee for a late cancellation or missed appointment. Fees are payable at the time of service unless an alternative arrangement is made.
- 4) Under no circumstances will the Child Specialist testify on behalf of or against any party who has signed this Agreement. The client hereby waives any right to have the Child Specialist testify in any Court of Law. The client agrees that they will not subpoena the Child Specialist to Court.
- 5) If the client decides that the Collaborative Divorce process is no longer viable and elects to terminate the status of the case as a Collaborative Divorce matter, he/she agrees, in writing, to immediately inform the other party and all other members of the Collaborative Divorce Team.

Client	Date
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Client	Date
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Child Specialist	Date
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