



High-Conflict/Court-Involvement Policy

Traditional Therapy Cases: Traditional therapy cases, even when they require coordination of care or have court involvement, do not require a deposit. Ascend is happy to coordinate care for no additional charge with psychiatrists, probation officers, other mental health providers, and other professionals for traditional therapy and bill insurance for services whenever an approved diagnostic code can be justified. Other than copays, co-insurance, and deductibles, these cases do not require out-of-pocket expenses unless Ascend is asked to write a document that is used for court purposes and/or engage in any other activity related to court involvement, including coming to testify. In such cases, we charge \$175/hour in accordance with our agreement for therapy services. Traditional therapy cases rarely necessitate such charges.

High-Conflict Therapy Cases: High-conflict cases are those that include high levels of family conflict, requiring both extra training for staff involved and extra time outside of session. Most of the time, these are families in which parents are separated or divorced and are not able to effectively co-parent and make joint decisions related to the care of their shared child(ren). In such cases, we require a \$750 deposit to begin working with the family. In some cases with particularly complex dynamics, we may need a higher deposit and reserve the right to discuss this on a case-by-case basis with new clients. We use this deposit to cover the services that insurance will not cover, including consultation between the therapists at Ascend who are assigned to the case (we frequently use a two-therapist model), consultation with other professionals like attorneys, guardian ad litem, custody evaluators, parenting consultants, etc., writing reports, reviewing emails sent by the parties between sessions, etc. In addition to this deposit, the parties are responsible to cover any charges for therapy sessions not paid by insurance.

For high-conflict cases, we have the following kinds of therapy:

1. **Therapy for children:** We offer play therapy for younger children and talk therapy for older children to help them process the dynamics unfolding in their family. This is billable to insurance if the child has symptoms and/or behaviors that justify an approved diagnostic code.
2. **Therapy for parents/spouses (adults):** We offer therapy for parents who are caught up in overwhelming dynamics in their families and need help coping so those symptoms do not get in the way of their life functioning and parenting. These services are billable to insurance if the individual qualifies for an approved diagnostic code.
3. **Joint family sessions:** We also offer joint family therapy sessions to help heal and ease family dynamics.

Parent Coaching: Parent coaching is not therapy and, therefore, is not billable to insurance. It is billed at \$125/hour and is specifically designed to help guide parents toward the best decisions possible for their children, not to address and alleviate the parents' symptoms associated with the ongoing conflict.



Reunification Therapy: Reunification Therapy is addressed in our separate agreement for reunification therapy services. This process is designed to help a child and parent build a relationship when the relationship either does not exist or has been broken over time. The deposit for these services is \$2,500 and sessions can sometimes be billed to insurance if member of the family qualify for approved diagnostic codes. Whether insurance is billed or not, a \$2,500 deposit is required. When billing insurance, we use the fees listed on our agreement for services based on the session code. The hours that cannot be billed to insurance are billed to the client (via the deposit) at \$175/hour.

Mediation/Social Early Neutral Evaluations (SENE): We have several qualified neutrals able to provide mediation services for divorce and post-decree issues, as well as help develop parenting plans. We also have one (female, mental health professional) provider who is able to do ENE's privately (and via the Wright County roster). The fee for mediation is paid for each session on the day the session occurs. Mediation and private ENE's are \$175/hour.

Parenting Consulting/Parenting Time Expediting: These services are available for \$175/hour as well and require a \$2,500 deposit.

| Service | Billable to insurance? | Deposit required? | Deposit amount | Cost |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|--|---|
| Traditional Therapy | Yes (with approved diagnostic code) | No | N/A | Based on session code |
| High-conflict Therapy | Sometimes (with approved diagnostic code) | Yes | Starts at \$750, at the discretion of therapy team | Sessions billed based on session code \$175/hour for non-billable time |
| Parent Coaching | No | No | N/A | \$125/hour due at time of service |
| Reunification Therapy | Sometimes, part can be billed (part is always un-billable) | Yes | \$2,500 | Sessions billed based on session code \$175/hour for non-billable time |
| Mediation/ENE | No | No | N/A | \$175 due at time of service |
| PC/PTE | No | Yes | \$2500 | \$175 due at time of service |

I agree to the above definitions, terms, and pricing, and agree to the following service for myself and/or my family: _____.

Client Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Provider Signature: _____ Date: _____

Provider Signature: _____ Date: _____