

In the matter of:

PARENT A and PARENT B

In the best interests of

CHILD(REN)'S NAMES

Court order for the LAST NAME family to engage in therapeutic services intended to rebalance the quality of CHILD(REN)'S relationship with PARENT A and PARENT B.

1. Given that it is in the best interests of each child to have the opportunity to make and maintain a healthy relationship with each of his or her parents, and
2. Given that CHILD(REN) is/are known to be strongly allied with PARENT A and is (or is reported to be) unrealistically resistant to or rejecting of PARENT B, and,
3. Given that the court sees no safety issue preventing the CHILD(REN) from having contact with either parent, thus,
4. Parties are herewith ordered to engage in a systemic therapeutic service that will typically include both parents (otherwise known as "reunification services") with Ascend Family Institute, LLC intended to rebalance the quality of CHILD(REN)'s relationship(s) with each parent. A parent therapist will be assigned to work with both parents, and a child therapist (or therapists, depending on the needs of the family) will be assigned to work with the CHILD(REN), unless a different approach serves the family's needs based on the clinical judgment of the reunification services providers. The process will unfold according to Ascend Family Institute, LLC's recommendations and timeline, with input from providers and professionals working with the family outside of Ascend.
5. GOALS: The primary goals of this service will be to assist CHILD(REN) to enjoy a healthy relationship with both of his/her/their parents and to assist parents in identifying, addressing, and monitoring any personal symptoms and/or behaviors getting in the way of the presence and/or quality of a healthy and balanced relationship with the CHILD(REN).

To this end:

1. Decision-Making Authority: (Insert name here) will serve in this role consistent with the guidelines established by AFCC for the primary purpose of coordinating the treatment team in support of the aforementioned goal. The parenting coordinator (PC) (or Guardian ad Litem) will have the authority to communicate with all providers and thereby to regulate the progress of the intervention. The PC will have the authority to temporarily adjust the existing schedule of care in support of the aforementioned goal. The PC will be available to promptly resolve to any treatment impasse. His or her decisions will be binding upon parties pending court review. The decision-making authority will not be discharged from his or her role until the reunification process has been completed or stopped.
2. Communications: Parties will enroll in [www.OURFAMILYWIZARD.com](http://www.OURFAMILYWIZARD.com) and use this mechanism to update one another and all providers constructively and proactively regarding matters in

**CHILD(REN)'S life or lives.** The PC will be given access to this information, as will the reunification therapists upon request.

3. **Adult therapists:** If the reunification therapists believe either parents' therapeutic needs cannot be served within the reunification therapy process, either parent will, upon request of the reunification team, commence/continue in individual psychotherapy and will comply with his/her psychotherapist's recommendations (e.g., frequency of meetings, medication consultation, etc.). Each parent will release his/her psychotherapist to communicate with the PC, and the reunifications therapists, in support of this goal.
4. **Child therapist:** If the reunification therapists believe the child, or any of the children's, therapeutic needs cannot be served within the reunification therapy process, **CHILD(REN)** will commence/continue in individual psychotherapy. The parents will actively support this service and comply with the psychotherapist's recommendations (e.g., frequency of meetings). The parents will consent and the child will assent so as to allow this psychotherapist to communicate with the PC and with the reunification therapists as requested.
5. **Non-disparagement:** Parties agree that exposing **CHILD(REN)** directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally to any word, gesture or material that disparages any among her caregivers in any manner is tantamount to abuse. As such, parties commit to protect **CHILD(REN)** from all such acts by any person, including extended family and significant others.
6. **Involvement of additional family members:** All family members included in the process, including step-parents, significant others of either parent, half siblings, step siblings, grandparents, and any other individuals will cooperate in the process, follow all policies, and comply with all requests to implement Ascend Family Institute, LLC's services. All individuals important to the CHILD(REN) and/or impactful to the process will be included. The parties will sign releases for any additional family members involved in the reunification process.
7. **Support of the treatment goal:** Parties further commit to support **CHILD(REN)** toward this treatment goal in both word and deed, recognizing that the process serves **CHILD(REN)'S** needs even if it is contrary to **CHILD(REN)'S** stated wishes and, as such, is likely to be emotionally demanding on all involved. **To this end, parents commit that these services will supersede all conflicting activities, including but not limited to school participation if evening appointments are not always available.**
8. **Pace and progress:** The PC (or reunification therapists) will provide parties and the court with a brief, written summary of progress and associated recommendations quarterly.
9. **Scope of role:** Reunification is not an evaluation or a process that will result in any legal recommendations. Ascend Family Institute, LLC may make *therapeutic recommendations* regarding parenting contact during the therapeutic process for the purposes of moving forward with therapeutic goals, but legal recommendations or custody recommendations are outside the scope of the role of reunification providers.
10. **Payment:** Parties will be responsible for their own psychotherapy costs and will equally share the costs of the child's therapy, subject to insurance reimbursement as available for each, for any services outside of the reunification therapy process. For reunification services at Ascend Family Institute, LLC, **(INSERT PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITIES HERE)**. Failure to timely comply with funding requests for any of these services will be construed as obstructing the aforementioned goal and thereby contrary to the best interests of the child.

NOTES REGARDING PAYMENT: There are a variety of ways payments can be split up. For example, one party can be ordered to pay the entire cost. Conversely, the parents can share the cost, either equally, or according to an alternative percentage contained within this order. Please note, Ascend has a deposit requirement of \$5,000, which is described in full detail in our Reunification Agreement available on our website ([www.ascendfam.com](http://www.ascendfam.com)) under the Forms tab. Ascend will bill the client's insurance company for face-to-face sessions in the event the services are found to be medically necessary. If services are not found to be medically necessary, no insurance will be billed. If insurance is billed, those services are subject to deductible, coinsurance, and copay according to the client's insurance plan. An in-network provider may or may not be available for each plan, so clients may sometimes need to use out-of-network benefits, or pay in cash if out-of-network benefits are not available. In addition, reunification services include other services, beside face-to-face sessions, which are billed directly to the clients (examples include coordination amongst the team of therapists, writing reports for court dates, communicating with the decision making authority in the case and outside therapists, etc.). Those services are NOT billable to insurance and are billed at a rate of \$175 per hour. The \$5,000 deposit is held in reserve until it is actually earned by the therapists on the case. It is used to cover the uncovered medical expenses not paid by insurance as well as the additional services not covered by insurance. A \$250 administrative fee is taken from the deposit when the case is opened and \$500 is held in reserve to cover the writing of the final summary at the end of the case. Therefore, the deposit must be replenished when \$850 is left (2 hours of services, plus the \$500 held in reserve for the final report and returned the family after the report is completed if any funds remain). **It is helpful for the order to provide as much detail as possible regarding how the deposit will be paid initially, as well as how replenishments will be handled. It is also helpful for the order to place the responsibility for missed appointment fees for the children on the parent who currently has parenting time, as it is his/her responsibility to get the children to the appointments, and the opposite parent does not usually want to pay for missed appointments. In addition, it can be helpful for the order to specify what will occur if one parent is responsible for payment and the opposite parent is mis-using the deposit money (ex. refusing to come in for face-to-face sessions that could be covered by insurance while calling and emailing instead, thereby draining the deposit).** These notes are meant to provide helpful guidance to the court in order to provide a detailed summary of how the cost of services should be covered.

11. Other orders: All other orders not inconsistent with this order shall remain in full force and effect.

So ordered:

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Signature of judge

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Printed name