

SERVICE CONTRACT

AGREEMENT BETWEEN:

Berkowitz Therapies Inc.

and

1. The purpose of this agreement is to obtain informed consent to conduct one of the following assessments:
 - Parent Capacity;
 - Care and Control/Custody;
 - Guardianship;
 - Access.

The assessment is carried out to determine the client(s) ability to meet the needs of the child(ren) and make a recommendation to the Court. Recommendations could include changing the care and control arrangement or that the current arrangement remains in place.

Although the assessor will make a recommendation, it is the parties and/or the Court that makes the final decision.

With regards to Care and Control/Custody Assessments:

The best interests of the child(ren) may be different from the views and/or preferences of the disputing parties. The assessor is obligated to focus on the best interests of the child(ren).

Although the process of the assessment may vary depending on the circumstances, the assessor will make an attempt to balance the process with both in terms of time spent with both parents. There may be times when it is necessary to spend more time with one parent than another. The assessor will use their judgment to make these decisions as needed.

2. Procedures conducted in completing the assessment would include:

- Interviews of the client(s);
- Observation session(s) between adult(s) and child(ren). This would include the parent/applicant and their partner if applicable. Observation sessions typically occur in the home. But in a situation where the parent/applicant does not have the child(ren) in their home the observation session could occur at a Child and Family Services Office, the Winnipeg Children's Access Agency or other community settings. There usually is only one observation session and it occurs after the background information is collected.
- Interviews with the children if age appropriate;
- Document review. This would include court materials, professional reports, e mails, texts and reference letters.
- Interviews with collateral contacts.
- Interviews with personal references.
- Submitting a final written report.

Interviews would be conducted in person and by telephone, at the offices of Berkowitz Therapies Inc. and at the residence of the client. Information might also be exchanged through e mails.

Any information collected for the assessment may be part of a final report and therefore is not considered confidential. It is the assessor's judgement whether the information will be included or not.

3. The client will be asked to sign a waiver allowing Berkowitz Therapies to speak with any professionals involved with your family or yourself. This could include Child and Family Services, schools, or counselors.
4. The client will be asked to provide the names of personal references. Please advise your references that any information shared with Berkowitz Therapies would be part of a report and therefore not be confidential.
5. If a child is interviewed as part of the assessment process, they will be explained that the information they share is not confidential and they have the right not to share information if they choose.
6. An assessment is generally completed in twelve to sixteen weeks but could take longer due to travel, number of participants in the assessment and conflicting schedules. Participants would be notified in advance of any anticipated delays.
7. Upon completion of the written report, only the final document will be released to the client's lawyer, generally by email. If the client is self-representing the report would be e-mailed to them. The written report will not be discussed with the clients prior to release.
8. The client has the right to seek avenues of complaint.

9. The fee for the assessment is _____

10. The fee for the assessment will be covered by _____

Additional limits to confidentiality:

The assessor is obligated to report abuse and neglect in accordance with provincial legislation.

If the assessor has significant concerns, they may report to the police to protect individuals from self-harm and from harming others.

As per the Social Work standards, the assessor obtains professional supervision and consultation from time to time, some non identifying information may be disclosed during these consultations.

By signing I agree to participate in the assessment. I acknowledge that I understand the parameters of this Service Contract, have been provided the opportunity to ask questions and receive clarifications as needed.

Client _____ Date _____

Berkowitz Therapies _____ Date _____