

Additional Information about Parent Coordinator Services

Parent Coordinator versus Co-Parenting Counselor

When Dr. King serves as a **Parent Coordinator**, this role is court ordered and she may provide feedback to the court about the progress parties are making in their work with her. This can have an impact on future orders.

Parties may choose to seek Dr. King's services as a **Co-Parenting Counselor**, in which case the work is confidential and Dr. King will not be sharing her opinions with any others. These persons are typically not court involved and are voluntarily seeking assistance, possibly to avoid court involvement.

What about the children?

Sometimes services are sought because children are experiencing difficulty with the parent plan; they may be resisting spending time with one parent. However, the children will not be the focus of Dr. King's work. Since environments created by parents dictate how well the children adjust and adapt, Dr. King's role is to help parents make positive changes in their children's environments so the children feel more secure.

Sometimes children will require supportive therapy. Dr. King may provide this as part of her services, or she may recommend a different child therapist. When a different child therapist is used, that therapist will communicate with Dr. King but will likely keep communications with the parents at a minimum. This is to prevent one parent from having an undue influence on the therapist.

Drafting orders for services.

Dr. King will not agree to serve as a Parent Coordinator unless she is given limited decision making authority by the court so she can address matters not covered in orders and/or make temporary, minor changes in parent plans to help resolve conflicts. When this authority is given, the role is sometimes referred to as a Special Master.

Even when the role of Parent Coordinator is specifically referenced in orders, decision making authority is not automatically given by the court. It is necessary for attorneys drafting the orders to include that language and ask the court to make that appointment.

Will medical insurance pay for services?

Services are not covered by medical insurance. Medical insurance pays for medically necessary treatment for medical conditions. This work is not considered by insurance companies as medically necessary. Individual therapy for children may be covered by insurance provided the child has a diagnosable disorder which happens to be covered by the insurance company and the focus of treatment is on that disorder.