

CHECKLIST FOR COURT ORDER FOR FAMILY THERAPY & INTERVENTION IN PARENT-CHILD CONTACT PROBLEM CASESⁱ

1. Provide structured and specified parenting plan, or pathway to return to court for determination after specified duration of therapy.
2. Identify objectives of therapy/intervention.
3. Identify minimum duration for therapy/intervention, or clarify the terms for the parents' withdrawal from services and the procedures for selecting new therapist.
4. Identify the names of professionals who will provide therapy/intervention; failing that, a process for selecting professionals in the event the parents cannot agree. May include provision for no unauthorized introduction of new therapists.
5. Identify the specific role of each professional, including scope of decision-making powers, if any.
6. Name any specific seminars or educational programs parents are to attend.
7. Name each family member who is to participate in the therapy/intervention.
8. State that the professionals are entitled to communicate with each other as deemed necessary by the therapists and that the parents will execute any necessary authorizations to allow for the exchange of information.
9. State that the parents will cooperate with the therapist.
10. Clarify the limits of confidentiality, if any, including reporting requirements to court.
11. Identify enforcement clauses (e.g., sanctions, consequences for non-compliance, options to prevent change of custody, etc.)
12. Specify any grievance procedures.
13. Clarify details of payment for services.

ⁱ Adapted from Fidler, Bala, Birnbaum & Kavassalis (2008).