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FIT families

CHECKLIST for COURT ORDERS FAMILY INTERVENTION in PARENT-CHILD CONTACT PROBLEM FILES

1. Identify objectives of therapy
2. Provide structured and specified parenting plan, or pathway to return to court for determination after specified duration of therapy
3. Identify the names of professional/s who will provide therapy; failing that, a process for selecting professional/s in the event the parents cannot agree. May include provision for no unauthorized introduction of new therapists.
4. State that the parties will cooperate with the therapist
5. Record that the therapist/s will determine who participates in the therapy (expectation for all key members of the family system).
6. State that the therapist/s are entitled to communicate with each other, and with other involved professionals, and that the parties will execute any necessary authorizations to allow for the exchange of information
7. Name any educational programmes/rehabilitation courses the parents are to attend
8. Record that the therapist cannot make decisions regarding care arrangements.
9. Clarify the limitations of confidentiality, so that the therapist/s can report to court.
10. Identify enforcement clauses (eg sanctions, consequences for non-compliance)
11. Clarify details of payment for services
12. Set out any care arrangements that are attached to the therapy (eg "step-up" plans)
13. Any other matters that are known to be necessary given the circumstances of the specific family

Adapted from Fidler, Bala, Birnbaum and Kavassalis *Challenging Issues In Child Custody Assessments: A Guide For Legal And Mental Health Professionals* (Toronto, Carswell, 2008)