Child and Family Psychologist

SGA

2 The Wick

10 Burton Road

Poole

Dorset

BH13 6DU

Tel: 01202761323

Email: psycho.sandy@sgapsychology.co.uk

Website: www.psychology-counselling.com

Expert Witness

Sandy Gaskins

BA Hons,M.A.Couns,CPsychol,Csci,CQSW,NNEB,EWI,AFBPsS

Chartered Psychologist

Chartered Scientist

Registered Social worker

Accredited Expert Witness (Family Certificate)

Children’s Agreement

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Parent 1Name: | And/or | Parent 2 Name: |
| Give Consent for, | Psychologists Name: Sandy Gaskins |
| To engage with the child/children listed below in Psychological Counselling. |
| Child’s Name |  | Date of Birth |  |
| Child’s Name |  | Date of Birth |  |
| Child’s Name |  | Date of Birth |  |
| Child’s Name |  | Date of Birth |  |

**What to tell the children.**

The Parent/s have invited the Psychologist to see their children, and this sets out the purpose of any such discussion and the basis of it.

1. The meeting between the Psychologist and the children together with any communication received from the children will be confidential to them except to the extent that they themselves agree otherwise.
2. The purpose of the meeting or meetings between the Psychologist and the children will be to help them understand the changes that are taking place in their lives, to help them feel listened to and understood and to give them more opportunity to express their own feelings concerns and needs.
3. The Parent/s understand that in view of the confidentiality, the outcome of the meeting with the children may not be made known by the Psychologist to the Parties and that the Psychologist will not specifically be asking the children for their own decision about parenting arrangements although that might become clear during the meeting.
4. The Psychologist will not discuss with the children the relationship between the Parties or any financial aspects of the family.
5. The Psychologist will see the children in the absence of their parents.
6. The rule of confidentiality could be varied by the Psychologist in the event of it becoming apparent that the children appeared to be at risk.

7. Neither of the Parties will brief the children beforehand and they will not cross-question or reproach them afterwards about anything they may or may not have said.

1. The Parties give their consent to this by signing this agreement.
2. There will be a charge of £70.00 per session for seeing the children payable in advance. Unless other arrangements have been made.

Prior to the Counselling it would be helpful if you would discuss with your child the fact that you have seen Sandy. Your child needs to know that because their opinion is important to you and you want them to be fully aware of what is going on you would like them to come in and meet Sandy. If they do not wish to come, that is fine. We do not want to put them under any sort of pressure. Most children are interested to meet us and feel important and empowered to be included in the process.

 Our task is to make children feel at ease, to talk to them about everyday things such as school, pets and hobbies and then gradually introduce things they might want to talk about. We will not be asking difficult questions or things that might upset them.

Please do not try to guess the questions that we will ask, or give any suggestions as to the replies your child should give or the things they should tell us. Children have a disarming way of telling us when they have been 'primed' and this really does not help them, or the process.

We know from experience that sometimes it is easier for children to talk to a third party rather than someone in the middle, who may want them to take sides. We will explain about confidentiality and the only reason for us to break their confidence would be if they were in some sort of harmful situation and then we may need to get some help. In the safety of this environment we find children can express their hopes and fears for the future. We may not be able to solve everything, but we find that even listening can make a difference.

After the counselling please do not ask your children what went on. By all means, ask them what they thought of the Psychologist or the office, but please do not put pressure on them to reveal what they said. Children usually tell their parents they have enjoyed coming, or they liked/disliked or that the Psychologist was kind. If they decide to tell you what they said, that is their choice and we will not tell them not to. However, they will have agreed with us what they want us to tell you at the 'feedback' session and we will tell you no more than that, unless we have their express permission to do so.

**Additional information**

Please provide details below of any allergies or food intolerances that your child has:

Please provide any information about your child(ren) that it might be helpful for the Psychologist to know to help put them at ease (eg - interests, hobbies, favourite characters / pop stars or a favourite toy):

Signed: Mother/Farther Signed: Psychologist