



## VALLIERE & COUNSELING ASSOCIATES, Inc.

Forensic Treatment Services

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### Parenting at Risk Program

Parenting is complicated, as is protecting children. Often, the risks to children and challenges to parenting safely and appropriately are multi-faceted. To address only the singular issues is short-sighted and does not minimize the risks that the children face.

In order to combat maltreatment of children in a comprehensive way, Valliere & Counseling Associates has developed the "Parenting at Risk" program. This program is designed to address any issue presented by a parent that may place the child or children in question at risk for abuse, maltreatment, or neglect. These issues may include a parent's risk for –

- Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Drug Endangerment
- Medical Abuse
- Neglect (physical, medical, or psychological)
- Abuse (physical or emotional/psychological)

There are many factors that can cause or contribute to a parent's risk to their child. Personality factors, problematic beliefs about children and parenting, drug or alcohol addiction, deviance and criminality, trauma, cognitive limitations, and skill deficits can be present, alone or in combination, to make parenting dangerous, inadequate, or damaging to the children who rely on the adult. This program aims to evaluate, identify, and address all the arenas involved for the parent and child to provide the best, most complete way to improve the quality of the relationship and caregiving for the parent to the children.

The Parenting at Risk program is an overarching program that will include a number of services. These services encompass:

1. **Clinical Evaluation/Assessment** – Parents who are deemed a risk or potential risk to children can be evaluated for behaviors, deficits, risk

factors, motivations and beliefs, and treatment recommendations. Psychological testing or other measures directly related to the referral issue can be utilized. A report identifying the specific areas requiring intervention, as well as treatment recommendations will be provided.

Court orders should specify referral questions that should be addressed through the evaluation (i.e. "Is father contributing to estrangement of his children from their mother?"), as well as mandate releases of information to facilitate communication. It is recommended that Court orders specify a contact person so that the evaluator can seek clarification about referral questions if needed. It is also strongly recommended, if possible, that a neutral or third party be able to forward Court information, allegations, and other relevant background to Valliere and Counseling Associates as this will expedite the evaluation process. Polygraph examination is also available for an additional fee.

- a. Psychosexual Evaluation – fee \$2000.00 (additional \$500 for polygraph examination) – for individuals with or suspected of a history of sexual abuse of others
  - b. Parenting At Risk Evaluation - \$1500.00/(contracted rate)
    - i. Child Abuse
    - ii. Medical Abuse
    - iii. Neglect
    - iv. Exposure to Risk (sexual assault, physical abuse, domestic violence, drug-endangerment)
    - v. Serious Mental Injury/Psychological or Emotional Abuse
    - vi. Alienation/Abuse through Divorce or Custody
    - vii. Failure to Protect
  - c. Evaluation of Child/Victim - \$1250.00/(contracted rate)
    - i. Serious Mental Injury
    - ii. Trauma
    - iii. Psychosexual
  - d. Adjunctive Evaluations/Excess Time (exceeds 10 hours) - \$100.00 per hour (This fee applies when the evaluation and report writing exceeds 10 hours due to excessive referral information, complex assessment issues, or the requirement for additional/adjunctive testing).
    - i. Cognitive Testing – if cognitive limitations are suspected
    - ii. Comprehensive Psychological Testing – if serious mental health or personality issues are suspected
  - e. Reunification readiness evaluation - \$750.00
2. **Therapeutic Services** – *Group and Individual* – After areas of needs are identified, clients will be referred to the appropriate treatment group(s) to address the treatment needs.

- a. Group Therapy - The groups can include sexual offender specific treatment, violence treatment, protective parenting, and/or trauma focused treatment/victim-survivor treatment. Individual therapy will be offered as well. Depending on the treatment provider and the diagnostic issues, these services might be reimbursable through insurance.
    - i. Sexual Offender treatment
    - ii. Interpersonal Violence
    - iii. Trauma-focused victim group (male/female)
    - iv. Protective parenting
  - b. Individual Therapy – A client's individual needs and deficits will be the focus of individual therapy. Mental health issues and addiction issues will be addressed as well, including a referral for more intensive services (e.g. substance abuse treatment, psychiatric care) if necessary. Depending on the treatment provider and the diagnostic issues, these services might be reimbursable through insurance.
  - c. Co-parenting Treatment – These sessions will be provided to couples who are dissolving or have dissolved their relationship and are at risk of or who are experiencing serious conflict and hostility that impedes their co-parenting. These sessions can be preventative, offering mediation, negotiation, and problem-solving to couples before children are negatively impacted as well. At the completion of the co-parenting sessions, a written commitment outlining agreed-upon household rules, expectations for parental behavior, and a conflict resolution plan will be created.
3. **Psychoeducational Services** – While all the treatment has a psychoeducational component, three psychoeducational groups are available.
- a. Parenting with Challenges – This parenting skills class includes but goes beyond basic parenting skills to educate parents about abuse, dealing with children who have special needs, and the impact of trauma/separation on the child. Many parents have children who present emotional or behavioral issues requiring more than basic parenting. This class is good for any parent who seeks support in parenting children with developmental issues, sexualized behavior, trauma, or behavioral problems.
  - b. Co-Parenting Education – Parents underestimate the impact of significant relational acrimony on children in a divorce or custodial process. This group will provide specific education to parents about impact of hostility, alienation, custodial conflict, and other behaviors parents engage in during or after divorce. Destructive behaviors will be identified and problem-solving/conflict resolution skills will be offered. Additionally, if requested, a brief assessment of progress (or failure to progress) with the information will be provided, as well as recommendations for future intervention if necessary.
  - c. Trauma for Caregivers – This group is available as a 3 hour overview for caregivers who have children that have suffered significant trauma. It is a

basic primer to explain how trauma can impact a child's adjustment and behavior, as well as teaches the caregiver how trauma can be triggered and experienced by the child, sometimes by traditional parenting practices. This is appropriate for all caregivers, including grandparents, foster parents, and helpers.

4. **Therapeutic Reunification Process** – When a child has been harmed by an adult or sibling, the family should not be reunified without a therapeutic reunification process. An appropriate process attempts to ensure that the child is not traumatized or re-exposed to danger, that the offender is ready and able to take on parenting again with minimal risk, and that the entire family is focused on identifying risks and protecting children. This process is done with a series of interventions, including: an assessment of the offender's, co-parent's, and child's readiness for reunification; a process of remediation, apology, and safety planning; and establishment of necessary rules and boundaries in the family for the future. The offender should have received treatment preceding this process, being able to demonstrate the preparedness for the child's emotions and behaviors and willingness to be fully accountable for the damage done by the abuse. This process is appropriate and necessary for those who have committed child abuse or domestic violence in the home. Reunification following a sexual offense can be more complicated and might not be appropriate, though reunification with a sibling who was sexually aggressive can be addressed in this program.
5. **Therapeutically Supervised Visitation** – Supervised visitation can be a very effective tool to assess a parent-child relationship and identify problem areas in parenting if done properly. However, supervised visitation can also be dangerous, traumatizing the child and allowing an offender to manipulate, influence, and abuse a child. Staff trained in understanding offender behavior, trauma, and parenting are available to observe visits and provide a written analysis of the issues presented.
6. **Consultation/Expert Witness Services/Testimony/Report Writing** – All providers will be prepared to write reports for the court/supervising agency, give related testimony, offer expert opinion, and be available for consultation with other agencies or treatment professionals.

**FEE SCHEDULE**

- Evaluations/Assessments – As indicated above
- Co-Parenting Module - \$1000.00 for over 12 hours of services group/co-parent sessions
  - Included in this fee are four (4) psychoeducational classes that focus on the challenges in co-parenting with another, particularly in contentious separations or divorces. Upon completion of these classes, the parents will attend three (3) ninety minute counseling sessions with a trained clinician. Additional sessions are available if necessary at an additional cost.
- Additional Co-Parenting Sessions - \$175.00 per 90 minutes
- Individual Therapy – Insurance may cover these services, but this is not guaranteed.
  - \$150.00 - Doctoral Level/Licensed Psychologist 45-50 minute session
  - \$100.00 - Non-doctoral therapist for 45-50 minute session
- Group Therapy –
  - \$50.00 - Therapeutic group for up to 3 hours
  - \$35.00 - Psychoeducational for up to 2 hours
  - \$75.00 - Trauma for Caregivers Class
- Therapeutically Supervised Visitation - \$75.00 per hour
- Therapeutic Reunification – Same hourly rate as therapy
- Court Appearances –
  - \$250.00 per hour – Dr. Veronique N. Valliere
  - \$200.00 per hour – Licensed Psychologists. This is the per hour rate for psychologists to testify in Court. This fee is paid in four-hour blocks for \$800, with a minimum of one block. This rate is available for any subpoena that is produced 7 days in advance to allow the psychologist to adjust their schedule. Any cancellations must be done at least two work days in advance or the full fee must be paid. This fee is incurred regardless of if the hearing is postponed or continued.
  - \$150.00 per hour - non-doctoral therapists. The same cancellation and scheduling rules apply for therapists as they do for psychologists.
- Report Writing - \$100.00 per hour - requested by the Courts (i.e. treatment updates, completion summaries, etc.)