

Date:

Dear: _____

I have been appointed to conduct a Social Study regarding the circumstances and conditions of the child(ren), who are subjects of this suit, and into the homes of those seeking custody of the child(ren). The objection of this evaluation is to give a recommendation to the Court about custody and possession of the child(ren). The decision is reached through individual interviews, home visits, completion of questionnaires, data received from collateral references and other evidentiary information collected.

My hourly fees are \$160.00 per hour (50-minute session) and payment is expected at the time of service. I require a \$1000.00 retainer to be provided prior to any work beginning and expect that your balance is always kept current. For your convenience, I accept all major credit cards.

You can expect to have at least three individual sessions in my office, which will be approximately 1 to 1½ hours in length. Please bring any information to these sessions that you believe will be helpful in the interview (i.e., legal papers, police reports, diaries, photographs, etc.). After these interviews are completed, I will conduct a home visit to your residence while your children are in your possession. It is also imperative that whoever else lives or stays in the home must be present. The home visit can take anywhere from 2 hours or longer and you will be charged for my driving time to and from your house. If it becomes necessary for me to travel outside of Bexar County, you will be expected to provide air transportation and hotel costs if applicable. Additionally, I charge a daily flat rate if I am out of my office all day conducting your home visit (\$1000.00).

During the home visits, I will initially meet with your child(ren). I may also want to interview them in my office after the home visits have been completed. Once this has been completed, I may ask for you and the other

party in the suit to participate in a conjoint session. The intention of this session is to see if we can resolve the custody and possession issue and create a "parenting plan" for the future. If we are unable to resolve these issues, I will proceed with checking your collateral references and writing a report to the Court. A second \$1000.00 retainer is required for these purposes. If I am asked to testify in Court and/or are deposed after my report has been submitted, my fees are \$250.00 per hour and are paid by the party subpoenaing or deposing me. A two-hour retainer is required to be paid prior to my testimony being provided.

Please note that this entire process may take anywhere from 60 days or longer depending on your availability for appointments, cooperation during this investigation and the complexity of the case. You should also know that this entire process is NOT CONFIDENTIAL. This means that whatever I learn through this process can be used in making a final recommendation for custody and possession.

Please contact me as soon as possible to set-up your first appointment. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Sincerely,

Robin Brown Walton MS, LPC
Social Study Investigator