

The Heart of Texas Forensic Counseling Center, PLLC

Shana R. Mercer, M.Ed., LPC-S

Parent Facilitator

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Fees & Retainer

One of the ways in which forensic practitioners maintain neutrality and ethical practice is by assuring that fee payment is not contingent on a particular recommendation or outcome. As such, fees are due as an advance retainer.

Fees & Retainer: Fees are charged per hour, rounded to the nearest 15-minute increment, based on the schedule below. This includes all services including reviewing documentation, records management, meetings, correspondences, phone contact, email, legal expenses, and consultation with other family service providers.

A retainer equal to three hours of service is due in advance from each of the parties. If one party is ordered to pay for all costs of services, they will also need to pay both retainers. Services may be charged against the retainer provided that the parties continue to fully replenish the retainer when billed. If a party is late in replenishing the retainer services may be suspended until such time as the retainer is replenished.

| Parenting Facilitator | Base Rate (hourly) | Retainer (per party) |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Shana Mercer, M.Ed., LPC-S | \$200.00 | \$600.00 |

Other costs: Each of the parties is responsible for any fees for production of third party records or other information related to services. Costs for copying of records and other administrative costs will be deducted from the retainer. Time in administrative tasks, including correspondence to parties, attorneys, or reports to the court, is billed at the standard hourly fee. Additionally cancellations of any appointment with less than 72 weekday (Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) hours notice will result in the canceling party being billed the entire service fee. Returned checks will be charged the maximum fee allowable under law.

Billing: With the exception of individual sessions, charges for the service will generally be divided between the parents unless otherwise specifically ordered by the court. If the order to participate in Parenting Facilitation stipulates that only one parent is financially responsible and the other parent cancels without 72-hour notice, the canceling parent is still responsible for that charge.

There may be other times when, similar to individual sessions, the Parenting Facilitator deems it appropriate to charge only one parent a particular fee. This determination is solely at the professional's discretion.

Court appearances: For any requested appearance, subpoenaed appearance, settlement conference, or deposition: \$250.00 per hour, with a minimum charge of five hours. Such fees are due at least one week before the scheduled appearance. Please note: if an appearance request is received without a minimum of one week notice the appearance fee is due immediately and there will be an additional \$250.00 express charge. Failure to provide the fee as specified constitutes release from the requested appearance.

Signature

Printed Name

Date