

Reunification Counseling



Debra Dupree (MA, MFT #23250), is an accomplished Motivational Speaker, Mediator, Professional Coach, and Trainer with deep practical experience in diverse environments. She is an expert in relationships helping organizations and individuals better understand and manage interactions, enhance customer relations, and prosper from choice and change.

Debra Dupree is an accomplished Therapist and Life/Professional Coach with deep practical experience. With more than 20 years of experience, she is an expert in relationships, helping couples and individuals better understand and interpret communication styles, impact of behaviors, and relationship dynamics, increasing their potential to succeed and prosper from choice and change.

Clients achieve new awareness and confidence in themselves, their relationships, and their work through Debra's guidance. She employs counseling, professional coaching strategies, training, and mediation to fit each unique situation. She is supportive yet challenging, warm and caring as well as solution-focused and action-oriented. Debra applies these skills and talents to a unique area of Family Law that addresses reunification of parents and children following a breakdown in family relations.

Reunification Counseling is a clinical procedure intended to reunify a child with an estranged parent in a manner that has long-term benefits to the child(ren) and to both parents. Reunification counseling may or may not be confidential, depending on the nature of the referral. In many instances, reunification counseling may be directed by a Judge, Family Court Services, another agency, or the child's attorneys (minor's counsel), if there is one and would involve the submission of one or more reports to document progress.

Reunification Counseling is one of the more difficult procedures in family work, as it requires a sensitive and careful approach with the child(ren) and the parent(s). First, a relationship must be established with both parents starting with the custodial parent. During this phase, the objective is to identify the major obstacles to reunification and devise an overall plan that is supported by both parents. Children are not involved until after this is done.

The next phase involves establishing a relationship with the child through the custodial parent and then bringing in the estranged parent. It is critical to keep the custodial parent informed and involved at each step in the reunification process.

Reunification counseling can take anywhere from a few months to a year or more, depending on the nature and the length of the estrangement. If it is done too quickly, there can be adverse reactions that can set the process back by months or years.

If the child is currently in therapy, the reunification work must be closely coordinated with the child therapist. If the child is not already in therapy, it may be recommended that therapy with the child be started before proceeding with the reunification work. It is not uncommon for the estranged parent to become impatient with what seems like a very slow process, however, long-term success is enhanced by moving very carefully, offering the best chance for success in the shortest time overall.

The process is worth it!

Today's children are tomorrow's parents and the next generation for the workforce.

Contact Debra now 1-800-743-1973 or info@relationshipsthatmatter.com