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**COOPERATIVE SEPARATION AND DIVORCE
MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT**

**CLIENT RETAINER AGREEMENT AND
INFORMED CONSENT**

This document contains important information about the professional services and business policies Kate Scharff, LCSW-C. By signing this agreement you give permission to Ms. Scharff to provide Separation and/or Divorce Consultation services to you in your cooperative divorce process. Please read this information carefully, and note any questions so they can be discussed.

MY ROLE AS YOUR DIVORCE CONSULTANT

Both parties can have a Divorce Consultant, or I can serve both parties as a Neutral Consultant - Facilitator. I am a licensed clinical social worker. In individual and joint meetings (with or without attorneys present) I will work with the parties to:

- 1.) Identify and prioritize the concerns of each person
- 2.) Make effective use of conflict resolution and communication skills
- 3.) Develop effective co-parenting skills
- 4.) Work collaboratively with the couple, their attorneys, and other involved professionals to improve communication, reduce misunderstandings, and resolve problems as they come up
- 5.) If needed, I will help my client – or both parties – develop a parenting plan for co-parenting their children now and in the future.

**THE DIVORCE CONSULTING PROCESS:
BENEFITS AND RISKS**

Divorce Consultation involves a joint effort between my client and me. Progress and success in the process can depend upon many factors, including your motivation, effort, and other circumstances, such as interactions with family, friends and others.

You may experience uncomfortable and distressing feelings such as unhappiness, anger, guilt and frustration during the process. These can be a natural part of divorce. You will make important personal decisions in the separation and divorce process, and your final agreement will be shaped by both parties in a way that will be unique to your family's circumstances. This requires flexibility by both parties so that a fair and mutually equitable agreement can be achieved.