



# STICKS & STONES

## THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

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Kristina Kosmac is a Registered Clinical Psychotherapist, Social Worker, Family Therapist, Relationship/Couples Therapist And Registered Sand Play And Expressive Therapist.

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### Court Policy

Please be advised that should the therapist of sticks and Stones therapeutic be requested to write a letter on any court related matter, that they will not be stipulating in writing or in person as to an opinion. Then only criteria being different as to duty of care concerns that become apparent within the therapeutic process, or the clients agree and give permission for the therapist to provide this opinion.

In all other circumstances the Therapist will only provide observations and feedback. At no time will any therapist of sticks and stones therapeutic make a recommendation regarding custody. If a court order is served and is requesting that a therapist of sticks and stones therapeutic be present in person and or there is a request for records, if the client is over the age of 18 years old and there are no duty of care issues the client's will become aware that their documents have been requested before turning over confidential information. When advising the clients of this request, the client will be told exactly what has been requested by court and there is no guarantee that the information will be kept confidential. This includes a client's mental health history; status and inclusive records and may not be in the best interest of the client. The therapist client relationship does not render the therapist as an advocate. The therapist will withhold any opportunity to engage in a dual relationship with the client.

If called to testify in a court hearing, the client may not discern between information and records provided. All information and records are available for discovery. This may not be in the best interests of the client. The therapist reserves the right to discuss the implications of releasing information and records.

When working with families and couples, it is imperative that both clients understand that if they wish to access their records during or after completion of therapy, both parents or / and participants must consent to the release of such records. This also includes court letters and testimony. Both participants must consent to disclosure, otherwise the therapist shall invoke privilege.

When working with minors under the age of 18 years old please be advised that minors at the age of 15 years old must consent to their own treatment as well as the consent to release their records. As the minor's therapist, it is the therapists' ethical duty to inform the minor of the significance of releasing records (both verbally and in writing) as it may or may not benefit them therapeutically.

Unless there is a duty of care issue (refer to privacy and confidentiality policy) or a referral has been made from either a family violence service and / or a child protection service. It is a legal requirement that both parents must consent to therapy for their child.

## Fees

Please be advised that should the therapist from sticks and stones therapeutic be court ordered to appear in court or at a deposition, the fee stipulation is as follows:

- \$2,000 per day plus \$200 per hour for travel to and from the court.
- \$200 per hour for preparation

Please be advised that should a therapist or intern from Sticks and Stones Therapeutic be ordered by court to write a letter to the court, the time shall be billed at \$200 per hour.

All therapist's and interns of sticks and stones therapeutic will NOT be ON-CALL at any time. Should a case be trailed, or continued, the therapist will be paid in full for each day as well as an additional \$1,000 per day as it hinders the therapist's or intern's ability to be available to their other clients.

## Subpoenas

Please be aware that an allowance of at least 2 weeks must be provided for the subpoena of files. Payment of

- Cost of subpoena are: \$37-\$150 for documents, varying by document type (records requests are \$0.31 per page, plus postage).
- Added time and travel for producing documents to courts/ or postage

Please coordinate to ensure that the therapist of sticks and Stones Therapeutic can be available for the date and time of the court hearing. The therapist may agree to accept the subpoena via email if agreed upon. Reminder: A subpoena in which the client provided the therapist as a potential witness shall be billed in full for all court related activity.

All court fees must be received by cashier's check 7 days prior to the court date. Should the court, calendar the hearing for another date, the therapist must be re-issued a new subpoena with the new court hearing date.

Should the therapist be on holidays, the party initiating the court order must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena.