

DIVORCE RESOURCE CENTER OF GEORGIA



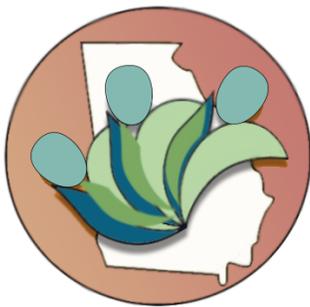
FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM: @DRCOFGA | TWITTER: @CENTERDIVORCE
WITH LOCATIONS IN ATHENS & COLUMBUS



Summer Days



Message from the Director



FREE CONSULTS

Did you know that DRCGA offers FREE 30 minute consults for all potential clients? Don't try to figure what you need on your own! Let our team of experts suggest a path forward!

I have one word for Summer 2021: FREEDOM! I'm stealing this word from a child client who used it to describe what it felt like to go to her first in-person birthday party since COVID appeared. I hope that you and your loved ones have had moments of this feeling as well. Freedom can also describe what it feels like to resolve conflict with a co-parent and/or a child. This is our most common referral at DRCGA, and because the nature of the parent-child relationship has life-long impacts, we make the healing of parent/child relationships our top priority.

Courtney Fields McVey, LCSW
Owner/Operator



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Molly Petner, LMSW

Molly has been with DRCGA since the beginning, starting as an intern and growing into the role of licensed therapist! She provides play therapy, reunification therapy, and individual therapy for children and adults.



SERVICE SPOTLIGHT



REUNIFICATION THERAPY

Reunification Therapy is a service designed to repair/rebuild strained relationships between parents and children. Typically court-ordered, this type of therapy specifically addresses parent-child relationships that may have been affected by **parental alienation**, long-distance, and/or separation. The Reunification Therapist works closely with a child's individual therapist and both parents to work towards a unified approach.



tip:

Facetime with little ones a little rough? Record a video of yourself reading a story to them! Bonus points for using props!

WHAT IS PARENTAL ALIENATION?

Parental Alienation is a term that was coined by Dr. Richard Gardner in the 1980s. Since then, much research has been conducted, revealing that it is more complex than first believed. It is not a diagnosis, a syndrome, or a crime. It is a complex set of variables, that can include intentional and unintentional behavior/communication that leads to conflict in the parent/child relationship. This can include criticism of other parent, oversharing of information, lack of encouragement of relationship, non-verbal reactions, and even just the presence of parental conflict itself. Because this can interfere with visitation requirements in child custody orders, interventions are often ordered by the court to resolve the resistance or refusal of a child to visit their parent. Reunification therapy is the most commonly court-ordered intervention, but for extreme cases, courts are known to order a change in custody based on the issue of parental alienation alone.



TIPS FOR FAMILIES:

Back to school time can be exciting and overwhelming at the same time, especially for children navigating two households. See some tips below for easing the transition:

- Write down your child's visitation schedule in their agenda
- Contact your child's teachers to make sure both parents are included on all communication.
- Consider doing first day of school pictures together as co-parents. What a great message of unity to start the year off with!
- Make a plan ahead of time for school functions that includes decisions about where to sit and with whom. This can be one of the most stressful times for your child to navigate.

