



Overcoming Barriers Inc.

Family-Centered Programs for Families in Conflict

Reduced Tuition Application for 2014 Overcoming Barriers Family Camp

Families should submit an application for reduced tuition, including accompanying documents, **by June 10, 2014**. Overcoming Barriers will review applications for reduced tuition and begin intake for reduced tuition families starting June 10 and expect to have families confirmed by June 25. Please find detailed information about the family camp program at <http://www.overcomingbarriers.org>.

Applications for reduced tuition must include:

1. Application for Overcoming Barriers Family Camp (pages 8-11)
2. Signed application agreement for application (page 12)
3. Court Order or agreement of both parents requiring both parents to:
 - a. Submit income statements
 - b. Participate in the intake process for family camp
 - c. Attend camp July 14-18, 2014 in Vermont
(A sample court order is attached below)
4. 2013 Federal IRS form 1040 (or comparable document) from both parents to verify gross annual pre-tax income.

Cost and Reduced Tuition

All families must pay for their own travel to Vermont. Room and board will be provided Monday noon - Friday noon.

Full price fee structure for Family Camp (for your reference):

- \$500 application & intake fee
- \$9,000 for family of four (\$4,000 deposit due upon acceptance).

Overcoming Barriers will offer reduced tuition to families based on their individual need and the available resources of Overcoming Barriers.

Review process for Applications

(Please find more detail on the intake process on our website)

We encourage both parents to submit applications but will accept applications from one parent as a starting point to be verified and elaborated on during the formal intake interviews with both parents and relevant professionals. Applicants are required to communicate to the other parent that an application has been submitted to Overcoming Barriers and that the other parent is encouraged to submit an application also.

Important family characteristics to consider:

- Family members should not have a history of verified domestic violence, current active substance abuse or current major untreated mental illness.
- Families should have adequate professional support available to support the family in carrying out the aftercare recommendations.
- All members of the immediate family will agree or will be ordered to attend camp. This will include both parents and all children between 9 and 18 years of age.
- Both parents agree to comply with the intake process for camp.

According to availability of space at Camp, reduced tuition applicants who are appropriate for the program will be offered a spot to participate at camp along with the reduced tuition figure we are able to make available at that time. The intake team's interviews with potential Family Camp participants will explore the following important dynamics:

- Causes of parental conflict as it relates to the potential for continuing conflict.
- Variables external to the nuclear family that have the potential to enhance or undermine continued progress after the program. If there are significant other people living at home who are involved with the children these people will be considered (and likely requested) to attend camp.
- The nature of the agreement to attend the program. Please note that the participation of parents and children is an essential part of the program and in order to accept a family our staff will need to be confident that all required family members will participate fully.
- Children's ages and developmental level as it relates to their relationships with both parents and their fit with other children participating in camp and typical camp activities. Families with **children who are 9 years and older are most suitable for the camp** as they are likely to be able to participate in the camp activities. Families with children younger than 9 years will be considered under specific circumstances. Families may still attend without their young children if these children have a place to stay while the rest of the family is at camp.

Please find the following documents attached below:

1. Declaration by Dr. Peggie Ward, 2014 Clinical Director for Family Camp, explaining details of the program (pages 4-5)
2. Sample court order identifying the critical elements to be included in an agreement for participation in the program (pages 6-7)
3. Application to be filled out by parent (pages 8-11)
4. Intake agreement to be read, signed, and included with the submission of the application (page 12)

A more detailed description of the intake process can be found on our website.

Please email us with any questions at overcomingbarriers@gmail.com or call our office at (650) 346-5869. When mailing us any materials please send an email letting us know to expect them. Overcoming Barriers will confirm the receipt of applications when they are received.

Materials can be sent electronically to overcomingbarriers@gmail.com, faxed to (650) 745-2800, or mailed to:

Overcoming Barriers
417 Tasso St.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Margaret A. (Peggie) Ward, Ph.D.

10 Union Street, Natick, MA 01760

508 655 1775 (phone) 508 655 4290 (fax)

Declaration of Margaret (Peggie) Ward, Ph.D.

I, Margaret (Peggie) Ward, Ph.D., declares as follows:

1. I am a Clinical Psychologist, licensed in the states of Massachusetts and Vermont. I know the following facts of my own personal knowledge and, if called as a witness, could and would testify competently thereto.
2. I have qualified as an expert in child custody cases in family court (5 counties) in Massachusetts, have been on the Committee to Create Guardian ad Litem Standards in the state of MA and the Committee to Develop Model Parenting Plans. I am currently on the "Child's Voice" Committee, created by the Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court. I have performed over 350 court-appointed neutral child custody evaluations in the last 25 years. I have published articles and presented to regional, national and international conferences on interventions with high conflict divorced families. I am on the MA AFCC Board and currently teach portions of the standard Guardian ad Litem curriculum. My curriculum vitae can be requested from my assistant, Ms. Carney, at 508 655 1775.
3. I am one of the founders and currently treasurer of Overcoming Barriers, Inc. Overcoming Barriers is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that hosts family-centered programs and professional trainings that promote children's healthy relationships with both parents and that keep children out of the middle of challenging co-parenting situations.
4. Overcoming Barriers is conducting a High-Conflict Divorce Family Camp at Camp Common Ground in Starksboro, VT from July 14 – July 18, 2014. The program is based on a model developed by Drs. Robin Deutsch, Matthew Sullivan and Peggie Ward. The camp has been conducted annually for 4 years in Vermont under the direction of these three clinicians and expanded in 2012 to Northern California. A comprehensive description of the program development, camp program components, aftercare and program evaluation can be found in an article published in the Family Court Review, FAMILY COURT REVIEW, Vol. 48 No. 1, January, 2010 116–135. In addition, information about the above clinicians, the organization, and this camp program (including application, intake, etc.) can be found on the Overcoming Barriers organization website, www.overcomingbarriers.org. At the July 2014 family camp there will also be present approximately eight trainees who will be learning about the Overcoming Barriers program model through

observation. Further the daily groups and family interventions will be led by “Fellows” who are experienced clinicians and who were at the VT camp last year as “Trainees”. All “Fellows” will work in direct collaboration with Drs. Sullivan, Ward, Deutsch, Fidler and Judge.

5. The family camp program requires participation of all members of the family, including stepparents and stepchildren. It has an intensive psycho-educational component for parents and children, intensive co-parenting and parent-child work, and utilizes a rich and therapeutic camp experience to repair ruptured relationships in a safe and healthy environment. The intake process collects relevant information about the background and history of the case as well as the current legal status and current professional support to tailor the program to the individual needs of the families who are accepted. A specific aftercare plan is provided to each family and follow-up with the Court and aftercare professionals is an essential part of building on what has been viewed as a positive experience by nearly all family members who have participated in past camps.
6. Interested families complete an application form with \$100.00 fee and Overcoming Barriers determines eligibility and fit by an initial screening. If a family meets basic screening criteria, an intake process with \$400.00 fee generally includes a review of relevant court documents, input from Court appointed professionals, interviews with family members and other support needed during intake. If admitted, the full cost of the program, not including intake, is \$9000.00 per family, with an incremental cost of \$500.00 for family member over 4 family members. Follow up work done by Overcoming Barriers’ clinical staff will be billed at the individual clinician’s hourly rate.
7. Families are asked to participate in research (anonymous) about their experience at camp. This research will be used to help insure the model is effective for families and to make changes where appropriate. Michael Saini, University of Toronto and Dr. Robin Deutsch lead the research team.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 1st day of March 2014 in Natick, MA.

Margaret (Peggie) Ward, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist

Sample Order

Heading identifying Court

J. Doe, Plaintiff

v.

J. Doe, Defendant

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

After hearing and review of the recommendations of the Court Appointed Child Custody evaluator [and/ or Parenting Coordinator or Stipulation of the parties] in this matter, this Court Orders as follows:

1. The parties are ordered to enroll in “Overcoming Barriers” Summer Camp (hereinafter OCB) from, Monday, July 14th, 2014 until Friday, July 18th, 2014, located at 473 Tatro Road, Starksboro, Vermont 05487. The parents are ORDERED to contact the OCB intake team at overcomingbarriers@gmail.com or (650) 346-5869 within five (5) days of this order to participate in the clinical intake process. All family members and significant others living in the household must attend the camp, including the children, John and Jane.
2. The goals of the Camp are to reduce conflict and rehabilitate family relationships where there is an expectation by the Court that a time-sharing arrangement should be supported.
3. Both parents shall cooperate with the application and intake process as directed by Overcoming Barriers, including signing releases of information to speak with professionals who may assist with the intake process. The Treatment Team may communicate with any medical, mental health, educational or other third-party professionals who are treating, working with or have treated or work with either party or any of the children as needed to effectuate a successful intake process. Third party professionals who have privileged information regarding the parties and/or the children shall be authorized to speak with, and share such information with, the Treatment Team. Any such information shall remain privileged and may not be disclosed by the Treatment Team except to a court of competent

jurisdiction if it is necessary to explain the actions or recommendations of the Treatment Team or as may be authorized by further order of such a Court.

4. The family will fully comply with the enrollment process as directed by Overcoming Barriers staff once accepted. The parties shall share equally [or other percentage as agreed or allocated by Court order] the cost of the application (\$100.00), intake process (\$500.00), camp program fees (\$9000.00), travel costs and any other costs associated with participating in the program. ***In case of family applying for reduced fee: The parties shall submit official documentation of annual gross income in the form of a most recent federal 1040 form within 5 days of being ordered by the court.***
5. The parties have an affirmative duty to fully participate in all aspects of the OCB camp process as directed by Overcoming Barriers while at the camp, including the development of an aftercare plan with the Treatment Team, before leaving the camp.
6. The aftercare plan for both of the parties and the children shall be forwarded to the Court, if requested, and to any professionals who may provide the family with aftercare services.
7. The parties shall sign any and all releases necessary so that information can be communicated between camp personnel and professionals who may provide aftercare services to the family.
8. None of the members of the Treatment Team is a psychotherapist or counselor for either party or any of the children or the family. None of their communication with the parties or the children is considered privileged or confidential.
9. This matter shall be reviewed by the Court on XXX. NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT TO SET A REVIEW HEARING SHORTLY AFTER THE CAMP ENDS

So Ordered.

DATE

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

This is a sample meant to list essential elements for the court to address when ordering a family to attend the Overcoming Barriers Family Camp. Orders will be unique according to the particular dynamics of each family. Please contact us if there are remaining questions about what to include in an order.

Overcoming Barriers
2014 High-Conflict Divorce Family Camp Application

Please answer all questions to the best of your knowledge using back of page if necessary. We prefer to have applications from both parents but will accept one as a starting point to be verified and elaborated on during the intake process.

Mail the following to: Overcoming Barriers, 417 Tasso Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301:

- 1) Application
- 2) Signed/dated informed consent “application agreement”
- 3) Initial intake fee* of \$100 payable to Overcoming Barriers Inc. Each individual submission of an application should include this fee and in the case that multiple applications have been submitted surplus fees will be reimbursed or applied to future intake fees.

***Reduced fee applications** include the following instead of \$100 fee:

- a) A court order or agreement for all parties to attend
- b) Proof of annual gross income of both parents in the form of federal 1040

Your information

Name:

Mailing Address:

Residence (if different from above):

Phone number (for best contact):

Email:

Lawyer’s name & contact info:

Who referred you to Overcoming Barriers or how did you hear about the program?

Children’s other parent’s information (if known)

Name:

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Mailing Address:

Residence (if different from above):

Phone number (for best contact):

Email:

Lawyer's name & contact info:

When and how did you tell this parent of your application to Overcoming Barriers?
(Please note that informing the other parent is a requirement of application)

Other adults

Please list step parents and new partners including who they live with (please note these people will be considered for participation at camp):

- 1.
- 2.

Children's information

a) Children names, DOB, grade in school, and date of your last face-to-face contact (indicate step-children and primary parent):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

b) Please list any allergies or other conditions of family members that may require medical attention during Family Camp:

Family Court Details

a) What is the current custody arrangement?

b) Is this arrangement being followed? If not, why not:

c) Please describe details of decision making authority as related to the children.

d) Does either parent have sole decision making authority?

e) Is your case involved in family court? If so, is the Court aware of your application to OCB?

f) Are there any future family court proceedings scheduled or anticipated? Include dates and a brief description.

g) If you are not involved in family court is there another professional who has recommended the camp to you (or the children's other parent?) If so, does this person have binding authority to make such a recommendation?

h) If you have a Court Order to participate please explain the details of the Order and attach.

i) If you and the other parent have stipulated or formally agreed to attend camp please provide details and provide a copy of the stipulation or agreement.

j) Please list any restraining orders as well as any reported allegations of domestic violence or abuse. Include dates, issues investigated, and outcome of the investigation. If the investigation is ongoing please note this as well as the projected date of investigation report.

k) Are there unresolved financial issues? Include a brief description.

l) Please share a brief description of why you think having your family attend Overcoming Barriers Family Camp could be helpful.



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Application Agreement for Overcoming Barriers Family Camp Services

The purpose of this Application Agreement for Overcoming Barriers camp services (the "Agreement") is to explain the application procedures and set forth the agreed upon terms and conditions for families interested in participating in Overcoming Barriers camp services.

Overcoming Barriers is a confidential psycho-educational program and unless both parents consent to release information it will not be disclosed to anyone. The information included on the application will be used by OCB personnel to screen for eligibility and appropriateness of the family for the camp.

Further, I understand that information and records otherwise confidential must be provided in the event of a court order demanding it.

Please initial here _____ to acknowledge that the other parent has been informed of your application to camp and OCB's request that both parents submit an application. Informing the other parent is a requirement of this Agreement.

Upon receipt of the application and supporting documents Overcoming Barriers will acknowledge receiving the materials by email or phone. Submission of an application does not guarantee the family's admission to the program. After reviewing the application, if Overcoming Barriers cannot proceed with intake, other referrals will be provided. If Overcoming Barriers determines that the family may be appropriate, Overcoming Barriers will inform the parents and recommend they engage in a formal intake.

I have read the above and agree to the conditions set forth. I attest to the fact that all information in the application and attachments are true & correct.

Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____/Date: _____

www.OvercomingBarriers.org

Massachusetts: 10 Union Street, Suite 2B, Natick, MA 01760

California: 417 Tasso Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

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