

MATTHEW J. SULLIVAN, Ph.D.

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Declaration of Matthew J. Sullivan, Ph.D.

I, Matthew J. Sullivan, Ph.D., declare as follows:

1. I am a Clinical Psychologist, licensed in the state of California since 1987. 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 8 family courts in Northern California, have been on the custody evaluation panel in Los Angeles County, and have performed over 350 court-appointed neutral child custody evaluations in the last 15 years. I have published articles and presented to regional, national and international conferences on interventions with high conflict divorced families. I am on the editorial board of the Journal of Child Custody and am on the Board of Directors of the International and California Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. My curriculum vitae can be downloaded from my website, www.californiaparentingcoordinator.com.
3. I am one of the founders and currently president of Overcoming Barriers, inc. Overcoming Barriers is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that hosts intensive psycho-educational programs for families with children in danger of losing a relationship with one parent after divorce. Our board includes Sherry Cassidy, a certified family law specialist and fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and The Honorable Marjorie Slabach, a retired family court commissioner in San Francisco Superior Court.
4. Overcoming Barriers is conducting a high conflict divorce family camp in Sonoma California from June 29-July 3, 2012. The program will be based on a model developed by Drs. Robin Deutsch, Matthew Sullivan and Peggie Ward. The camp has been conducted annually for the last three years in Vermont under the direction of these three clinicians. 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.

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 coparenting 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 current legal status of the case 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 \$500.00 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 is \$9000.00 per family, with an incremental cost of \$500.00 for family member over 4 family members.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 1st day of March, 2012 in Palo Alto, California.

Matthew J. Sullivan, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist