

# NEW MEXICO JUDICIAL BRANCH

## COURT CLINICIAN 2

*This job description is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions performed.*

### **SUMMARY**

Under direction, and by court order, independently manage cases, conduct assessments of highly conflicted individuals and families involved in child custody disputes and provide recommendations/suggestions to the court; consult and mediate with conflicted parents and families; develop parenting plans for court approval; assess emergency issues; provide services on an on-call basis as needed, and serve as an expert witness for the court pursuant to NMRA Section 11-706.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

**Education:** Master's degree in Psychology, Counseling, Social Work or other mental health related field; 40 hours of mediation training, and 20 hours of advanced mediation training in the area of family/child custody disputes.

**Education Substitution:** None

**Licensure:** Current license to practice in the State of New Mexico as a Licensed Professional Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LPCC), Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Licensed Masters Social Worker (LMSW), Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) or license to practice in the State of New Mexico as a Psychologist.

**Experience:** Five (5) years experience working with families and children in a therapeutic setting, of which three (3) years must have been in mediation and evaluation of child custody cases and family related issues.

**Experience Substitution:** A licensed PhD in Psychology, Counseling or other mental health related field may substitute for two (2) years experience.

**Knowledge:** Knowledge of crisis prevention and intervention techniques; advanced assessment, interviewing, counseling, negotiation and mediation techniques and procedures; NM Counseling and Therapy Practice Board ethical standards; clinical interviewing; child development; psychopathology; family systems theory and therapy; substance abuse; domestic violence and child abuse; child protective service procedures; cultural diversity; assessment, interviewing and counseling procedures; treatment planning; resources within the community; family court guidelines; psychological testing procedures; rules of civil procedure as related to family cases; New Mexico Statutes and American Psychological Association (APA) and other related board guidelines and standards, and local court rules.

**Skill & Ability:** **Skill** in accurately assessing: crisis situations quickly, the psychological status of parties, the lethality of cases involving domestic violence and child abuse, the suicidality/homicidality and dangerousness of parties to the children and community, and treatment needs. **Ability** to work with individuals who are in high conflict, are mentally ill, or who have serious personality disorders; communicate effectively both orally and in writing and work with judicial/legal professionals, judges and other agencies; work with a culturally diverse population; work in stressful environments and/or hostile situations on a daily basis; and maintain confidentiality.

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### EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Manage assigned cases; gather information, review and analyze pertinent documents; make suggestions or recommendations on cases; coordinate with other state agencies and associated professionals to provide services; draft parenting plans, priority/advisory consultation reports and recommendations in the form of court orders for court approval; appear in court as an expert witness to provide testimony on the information gathered and non-confidential agreements reached and the outcome of cases heard in family/children or civil court.

**Mediation** - Conduct mediation and settlement facilitation on cases referred by family court, children's court or civil court that involve disputes regarding child custody matters; conduct follow-up mediation or evaluations; may co-facilitate settlement agreements; assist parents in reaching a solution that is developmentally appropriate for the child(ren) regarding residency, child legal custody, time-sharing and/or parenting plans; educate parents regarding child development, and the impact that on-going conflict has on child(ren), and may conduct multi-party child abuse and neglect mediations.

**Priority/Advisory Consultation** – Conduct Advisory Consultations, Priority Consultations and home studies; clinically assess the developmental and psychological needs and emotional functioning of children, parents and families; assess communication and parenting skills; clinically assess the lethality of cases involving domestic violence and child abuse (physical and sexual); assess the needs of the child(ren) through information gathering, observation and/or interviewing; provide interim or long- term recommendations regarding time-sharing, residency, custody or other issues determined by the court.

**Crisis Intervention and Consultation** - Conduct crisis interventions and provide consultations as requested by the court; provide recommendations, alternatives and suggestions to the court; assess the lethality of cases involving domestic violence and child abuse (physical and sexual); in the courtroom assess emergency issues and offer suggestions or alternatives to the court.

**Training** - Present educational training to parents and community regarding services provided by the court clinic; facilitate parenting groups, communication skills workshop, divorce adjustment groups and other groups as needed; collaborate with the Judicial Education Center to provide training for court mediators; compile and maintain resource directory; work with community agencies to provide services; provide training and supervision to students/interns.

**May** - Under supervision, may administer, score and/or use psychological tests, such as the MMPI-2, MCMI-II and Rotter Incomplete Sentence psychological tests; consult with a clinical psychologist who administers test regarding score and interpret more extensive psychological assessments using standard objective and projective tests; review new psychological tests and assessment instruments used in custody and competency evaluations and assist with determining implementation into the clinic process; conduct critical incident debriefing for jurors in criminal and civil cases; prepare for cross examination by parties and the court; prepare memorandums of understanding to all parties; in the absence of a Director in a small clinic, may manage program(s), assign, review and approve the work of others.

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### WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The following functions are representative of the work environment and physical demands an employee may expect to encounter in performing tasks assigned to this job.

Work is performed in an office, field, jail or court setting. The work performed requires travel (valid driver's license required). The employee is expected to be punctual and to adhere to assigned work schedule. Assigned work schedules are flexible; include days, nights, and weekends and holidays; overtime may be required. The employee must regularly interact positively with co-workers, clients and the public; work under severe time constraints and meet multiple demands from several people. The work requires prolonged use of computers, repetitious hand, arm and finger motions as well as manual/finger dexterity. The employee must be able to walk, talk, hear, kneel, stoop, lift, pull and carry up to 40 pounds. Travel may also be periodically required for training, meetings and presentations. The employee may be required to sit or stand for long periods of time. The employee may be exposed to fluctuating outdoor and building temperatures; hostile or violent situations that may arise when dealing with individuals involved in court cases, disturbing or hazardous court exhibits and contagious health conditions.