



# The Toby Center

Preserving Family Ties When Parents Choose to Separate™



*Founded in 2000 as the Children's Rights Council of Connecticut  
Serving South Florida families since 2010  
[www.thetobycenter.org](http://www.thetobycenter.org)*

## Child Reunification Therapy

Child Reunification Therapy is the specialized therapy serving two specific goals. These are:

- a) to strengthen the apparent bonds of affection when the child's affection for the absent or non-custodial parent yet remains emotionally challenged due to loyalty to the residential parent; and
- b) to fully engage the child with the absent or non-custodial parent in order to prepare the child for change of custody as considered by the foster care agency, the juvenile court, or family court's determination.

Oftentimes, terms are used by both informed and uninformed parties characterizing a child's behavior and outwardly and verbally expressed antipathy, fear and hatred towards the non-custodial parent. Such terms are most notably parental alienation, with characterization of the custodial parent as an alienator, with narcissistic and bi-polar disorders.

### CHILD ESTRANGEMENT

Sometimes, children are estranged from their non-custodial parents resulting from their own inward thoughts, their own internalizing as opposed to brainwashing by the custodial parent which often accompanies a highly conflicted parent separation and divorce. Children so estranged suffer, too, from their own unfounded blame for their parents' marital and or relationship breakdown. It is then easy for the child to vilify the absent parent, in order to preserve their own sanity, their need to find peace.

The Toby Center provides expertise in helping children and their so called 'targeted' parents with the opportunities to explore feelings, to find the sources for those feelings, and then to refocus on what is reality. This is frequently an emotionally charged process, but a necessary one in order to preserve what research has determined to be the most important relationship to form a child's kind, happier and more contented view of the world.

### CLARITY

When ordered by a judge, child reunification is often misunderstood, though on target for the needs of the child. The judge considers the outcomes that are preferred, but they often do not understand the process necessary to achieve those most important results.

### WHAT IS REUNIFICATION

Child reunification must be facilitated by a clinically licensed and uniquely skilled therapist with the ability to see clearly the challenges posed by the child, and the illogic which may be expressed. That therapist must reframe the child's thinking, and must do so with the support of the court in order to succeed. The efforts by the facilitating professional is to assure both parents, and their children and

requires the compliance of the custodial parent in order to be successful. The value will be evident when the more normal, loving and accepting relationship is found for the child(ren) and their non-custodial parent over a period of time, absent stonewalling.

#### GOALS

We can help such families to adjust with family change by assisting the children in their adjustment in relating to two different parents, and to enable the parents themselves to move forward by managing their anger, their stress, their conflict.

The court and all parties must agree to the terms of the Toby Center for process, frequency and location in view of the goals specified by the court and other therapeutic considerations. The Toby Center reserves the right to designate an appropriate location to assist client families.

#### Fee Schedule for Child Reunification\*

Income	Fee Per Hourly Session
Gross Annual Income	Rate
above \$ 70,000	\$250 / hour
\$60,000 - \$69,000	\$ 195 / hour
Less than \$60,000	\$ 150 / hour

**Intake Fee** An intake is required prior to scheduling Child Reunification. There is an Intake fee of \$250 per party – custodial, non-custodial and when recommended, children. These intakes are required procedure to help us understand your history, your goals and to learn if there had been prior therapeutic treatment.

*For individual requests, please reach out to Claire Berkoff, New Client Coordinator, 855-862-9236, ext. 1, or [clberko@aol.com](mailto:clberko@aol.com).*

*For agency requests, please reach out to Erica Cohen, Agency Relations Coordinator, 855-862-9236, ext. 4 or [ekc1019@yahoo.com](mailto:ekc1019@yahoo.com).*

*For information and resources, please visit [www.thetobycenter.org](http://www.thetobycenter.org).*

**The Toby Center offers clinical and visitation services at more than a dozen convenient locations in more than twelve counties in Florida and Connecticut.**

*Ask us about Family Mediation, Parenting Plan, and Co-Parenting Guidance*