



Outside Participant Agreement

Please read this document carefully and note any questions you have so that we can discuss them at our next meeting. When you sign this document, it will be the agreement between us and you on your rights, responsibilities, and risks as an “**outside participant**”.

Roles and Nature of Process

The words “we”, “our”, “us”, etc. in this document refer to **CoupleSolutions**, as represented by **Andre Lampa** or others designated by him.

The words “you” and “your” refer to those who sign below as an **outside participant**.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our work with _____, referred to in this document as our **client**. Your generous participation can be of great benefit.

Depending on your willingness, comfort, availability, and so on, **your specific participation may vary greatly**, from merely observing on a single occasion to attending many sessions where you will be deeply involved. With your continuing agreement, we will discuss and develop this as we proceed. **You may decline to participate in any particular discussion or exercise, or withdraw from the process at any time.**

While your participation can result in better understanding of the client or an improved relationship with them, and may well help in your own growth and development, **there is no guarantee** that this will be the case. The process may produce intense emotional experiences in any of you, alter your relationship with the client by exposing or increasing discord between you, or result in other such outcomes that you may not desire.

During meetings with us, you may reveal or discuss your own problems or concerns, especially those that intersect with issues of the client. You and the client may have specific differences or conflicts that you wish to resolve. You may be a spouse, family member, or friend of our client, and you may truly have their best interest at heart. However, please understand that, while we will treat you courteously, kindly, and with respect, **our primary responsibility is to our client**. While this does not mean that we will always take on our client’s point of view, we must make their wellbeing, however we define that, our first priority.

It may become advisable that you obtain counselling or other support services for yourself. If you request that from us in conjunction with your relationship with the client, we may decide to accept you as a **joint client with our current client**. This would only occur if our current client agrees, we believe we can effectively and ethically delineate our joint work, and we all sign a new Client Service Agreement together that would supersede this previous agreement. However, if at any point we feel that could result in a conflict of interest or reduce the focus of help for the parties, we may instead **refer you to another counsellor** for help.

If you are responsible for a client who is a minor or otherwise unable to give full consent, you may be asked to give your consent to their work with us by also signing our Client Service Agreement, and to pay for our services. However, if you also sign this agreement, your rights

will nevertheless be limited to those of an outside participant, regardless of any payment that you make.

Confidentiality

We do not disclose any information about the client to you, or to any outside parties, unless the client specifically authorizes us to do so. Nevertheless, the following circumstances are **exceptions to this confidentiality.**

- **We may consult other professionals** about our cases. If we do, we make every effort to avoid revealing any identifying information about you or the client. We will not inform either of you about these consultations unless we deem it important for you.
- If we suspect either you or the client is **abusing or neglecting a child or a vulnerable person**, if you or the client **threatens serious bodily harm** to another person, or if we believe that either you or the client is **a danger to themselves**, we may be required to file a report with the appropriate authorities, or may take similar actions to protect those at risk.
- If a **court requires that we submit information or testify** about you or the client, we must comply, though we do not do so voluntarily.

You are also expected to keep private any of the client’s information that becomes known to you through your involvement as an outside participant.

You will not be given any access to client records without their written consent. If the client discloses information when you are present or participating in sessions, this implies their consent for us to discuss that with you at that time. However, we require that the client **authorize us in writing before we can speak to you privately** about the client’s matters.

Generally, **we may disclose to the client any information that you reveal, at our sole discretion.** Furthermore, notes about you may be made in the client’s records and these may be seen by them. If you require keeping some information from the client, you should not disclose it to us.

We suggest restricting email, SMS, voicemail and like messages to administrative matters such as appointment details, since these are not necessarily always completely secure from access by others.

If you have any questions about your role in this process, please discuss them with us.

By signing below, you indicate that you have read and understand this document and accept these terms.

For CoupleSolutions:

Date _____ Name Andre Lampa Signature _____

Outside Participant(s):

Date _____ Name _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Name _____ Signature _____