

## **SUBJECT: Free clinical services for participation in a study about conflictual divorce**

You are being invited to participate in the first step of a research study to be conducted by Brenda Barnwell, LCSW, CADC, ABD, executive director of Joi Counseling Center. To determine the effectiveness of interventions that aim to reduce conflict during a divorce, a research study is being conducted with some families in Kendall County. This study will include an exploration of factors that increase tension in a family and possible ways to reduce conflict.

### **Description of the Study**

During this process, participants will be asked to complete three surveys. Information will be gathered from the completed surveys. The surveys will ask questions concerning: marriage, divorce, and the level of conflict you are experiencing during the divorce.

### **Description of the Risks**

The surveys in step one will take a total of approximately thirty minutes to complete.

### **Second Step of the Research Project**

You may be asked to participate in the second step of the research project at a later date. A separate consent form will be obtained should you want to move forward with the research project. You will have the option to continue or to stop at any time. The second phase includes a group experience that meets for a total of eight ninety-minute sessions during an eleven week time-frame.

### **Benefits**

The study is designed to gain an understanding of effective interventions to reduce conflicts within a family system during the divorce process. The results of the study could be helpful when planning therapeutic interventions for parents who are dissolving a marriage.

Participants may benefit from reduced stress, increased positive communication and a deeper understanding of family functioning. There are no costs associated with your participation in this study.

### **Confidentiality**

Your participation in this research is confidential. The information gathered will be kept confidentially; information in any report will not include names or any other identifying information of participants.

### **Voluntary Participation**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decline to participate without any penalty. As stated previously, if you elect to participate, you may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

**If you are interested in participating in step one, and possible step two of the research, please contact Jodie Doty to schedule a time to complete the three surveys.**