

\*Simplepractice LEARNING + \*\* THERAFY REMAGINED

Deflecting & Navigating Court in Chaos

—
Nicol Stolar-Peterson, MSW, LCSW, BCD

1

#### **Disclaimers and Disclosures**

The opinions expressed in this course are solely of the presenter, and do not necessarily reflect those of Therapy Reimagined, SimplePractice, or others.

Each presenter has attested that there is no outside commercial support for this session, and they have no conflicts of interest related to this session or its content.

The information presented here is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate at the time of course publication. However, Therapy Reimagined and SimplePractice assume no responsibility for errors, omissions, or changes. Legal, ethical, clinical, and cultural standards can change quickly, and it is ultimately the responsibility of each individual therapist to remain current.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

# Nicol Stolar-Peterson

California Licensed Social Worker

Founder, Therapist Court Prep

Director, Kids Court & Counseling Center

**Expert Witness and Consultant** 

Child Custody Evaluator, Family Law

Previous Expert Witness, Board of Behavioral Sciences



### 2015 ~ and still true



Discomfort and grounding

### **Court 101**

Types of Court Related Questions

Privilege, releasing records & dealing with attorneys



8

# Court Policy is a <u>must!</u> (during informed consent)

### Court policy is a must

- Yeah or Nay Court (yes you can pick, no that does not mean you can skip court)
- Letters (worried, there's a sample at www.therapistcourtprep.com)
- Limitations (recommendations)
- Fees (responsible party)
- Subpoena Scheduling (yes, it's possible)
- Consent (Adults, minors, couples, family, custody issues)
- Records vs Treatment summary

 $\Theta$ 

### More about fees \$\$



### After all the deflection... Just in case

#### Court Prep 101

- Roles & Scope
- Listening, Waiting, and Responding

# Let's practice

You have been treating a couple for two years. The wife has decided that she would like a divorce and has now requested "the records" for her attorney to "look over."

- Considerations
- Steps
- Limitations
- Privilege

13

### Let's practice

your client. What do you do?

- Considerations
- Steps
- Limitations
- Privilege

# Let's practice

You have been treating a female (DX PTSD) who has reported that her husband was arrested for beating her up over several years, the last incident being the most severe. She is now a single mother and has been told to get full custody of her child. Her attorney recommended that she get a letter from you, her therapist, letting the court know that she is the better and safer parent for the minor and that she should have full custody.

- Considerations
- Steps

14

- Limitations
- Privilege

Your client's attorney leaves you a message requesting a call back and records for

## Let's practice

You receive a subpoena for a client who terminated a year ago. What do you do?

- Considerations
- Steps
- Limitations
- Privilege

# Let's practice

You are subpoenaed to court, your client has signed a consent to release information, and they even signed your court policy (at the time of informed consent) that stated that you do not get involved in court matters... what next?

- Considerations
- Steps
- Limitations
- Privilege

# Case file and court prep

- Binders
- Using a Timeline \_\_\_\_\_\_
- Court Attire

17

# Feeling Better? Still Unsure?

You are not alone!

You've got this! Preparation is EVERYTHING!

If you need more support, you can find me at www.therapistcourtprep.com

Nicol Stolar-Peterson, LCSW, BCD

