

# Lauren Blake

Marriage and Family Therapist License No. 4101007441  
Curriculum Vitae

## **OBJECTIVE**

Supporting families, parents, and children in need of intervention and services amidst contentious litigation. My primary goal is to assist families in reaching an appropriate and healthy level of functioning to build a successful, cohesive unit for the benefit of minor children involved in high conflict families.

## **EDUCATION**

*Northcentral University* - San Diego, California, 3.9 GPA

- Attended 2018 - 2022
- Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy
- Specialization in Trauma-Informed Care

*Lee University* - Cleveland, Tennessee, 3.8 GPA - Magna Cum Laude

- Attended 2009 - 2013
- Bachelor of Arts in Communications, Emphasis in Journalism, Concentration in Writing
- Minors in Telecommunications and Biblical Studies

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

*EMDR International Association (EMDRIA)* - 2023

*Association of Family and Conciliation Courts* - 2023

*American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT)* - 2019

*Supervised Visitation Network* - 2019

*Michigan Inter-Professional Association (MIPA)* - 2019

*American Association of Suicidology* - 2018

*Delta Kappa, Iota Chapter* - 2018

## **EXPERIENCE**

***Blake Family Consulting, LLC* - Novi, Michigan**

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist & Guardian Ad Litem

- Support families through divorce, post-judgment, and custodial matters with a hybrid of customized mental health and legal services including, but not limited to, therapeutic treatment, parenting time supervision, Guardian Ad Litem, and Parenting Time Coordination services.
- Specialized in trauma-informed care with individuals impacted by mental

illness, family conflict, violence, abuse, and litigation.

- Provide individuals and families with crisis intervention and psychoeducation on mental health disorders. Provide treatment and coping strategies to decrease negative and harmful symptomatology that coincides with comorbid illnesses.
- Maintain knowledge and relationships with existing referral agencies, psychiatrists, community resources, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Work alongside Child Protective Services (CPS) to review dispositional findings and assist at-risk families in the implementation of safety plans to reduce likelihood of abuse.

→ **Blake Family Therapy, LLC**

→ **Therapeutic Services**

- ◆ Therapeutic focal point includes co-parenting, reunification, and trauma therapy.
- ◆ Diagnose, create treatment plans, and provide therapy for children, adolescents, individuals, couples, and families.
- ◆ Cross reference Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5-TR) for determination on differential diagnoses or potential comorbid disorders in managing treatment planning.
- ◆ Build rapport with and create safety plans for minor children involved in reunification therapy.
- ◆ Coach and rehabilitate family systems in need by providing child-focused care intent on diffusing interpersonal conflict within the family.
- ◆ Provide assessments of minor children to determine their therapeutic needs.
- ◆ Assist clients in developing effective coping strategies, provide psychoeducation, and aid individuals in building upon emotional strengths.
- ◆ Assist legal counsel with actionable plans to reintegrate children with the non custodial parent with a hybrid of service options.
- ◆ Assist co-parents in communicating effectively – provide mediation as needed.
- ◆ Provide Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy for highly traumatized clientele.

→ **Blake Family Advocacy, LLC**

→ **Guardian Ad Litem and Parenting Time Coordination Services:**

- ◆ Interview parents and children to conceptualize the family dynamics.
- ◆ Build rapport with minor children to create a safe environment for them to communicate their needs and concerns.
- ◆ Conduct age-appropriate communications with children centered around the breakdown of the family and the rehabilitation of the family system.
- ◆ Maintain contact with the professionals surrounding a family on appointed matters including, but not limited to, parents, children,

therapists, doctors, psychiatrists, teachers, coaches, and academic staff to build and maintain a network of positive support for families in crisis.

- ◆ Review of children’s academic and medical records as needed to provide recommendations in the best interest of the child.
- ◆ Review of documents and evidence provided by the parents, or their counsel, to aid in decision making related to the wellbeing of the children.
- ◆ Maintain positive, solution focused relationships with parents to streamline communication, expedite resolution of conflict, and avoid legal intervention.
- ◆ Manage family crises that may include hostile relational dynamics to maintain the safety and wellbeing of the minor children.
- ◆ Monitor compliance of orders and recommendations to keep the court informed of familial progress.
- ◆ Participate in legal proceedings to provide insight and recommendations related to the “Best Interests of the Child” Factors pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws Section 722.23.
- ◆ Assist families with Parenting Time Coordination services pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws Section 722.27c.

→ **Blake Family Supervision, LLC**

→ **Parenting Time Supervision Services**

- ◆ Hire and manage a small team of mental health workers who provide services as on-site parenting time supervisors.
- ◆ Ensure supervisors are vetted via the following:
  - Background Checks
  - Social Security Number Trace
  - Sex Offender Registry
  - Global Watchlist Records
  - National Criminal Records
  - All County Criminal Search in the State of Michigan
  - 10-Panel Drug Testing
  - Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Clearance
  - Completion of CPR and First Aid Training.
- ◆ Train Parenting Time Supervisors in the following:
  - Role and Responsibilities
  - Child Abuse Reporting Laws
  - Legal Obligations
  - Subpoenas and Court Testimony
  - Record-Keeping Procedures
  - Visiting Processes and Procedures
  - Screening, Monitoring, and Termination of Visitation
  - Developmental Needs of Children
  - Cultural Sensitivity, Conflicts of Interest, and Confidentiality

- Personal and Community Safety
- Conduct family interviews, create customized procedural and behavioral rules for each family depending on allegations and needs of the family, manage intake documents, and create visitation schedules.
- ◆ Monitor the safety and wellbeing of children visiting non-custodial parents.
- ◆ Parental coaching offered as agreed upon or ordered.
- ◆ Interactive supervision provided as needed.
- ◆ Provide reports or testimony to assist the court as needed.

***Focus Therapy Clinic - Southfield, Michigan***

Marriage and Family Therapist / 2020 – 2022

- Screen potential clients, create client portal, and conduct intake sessions.
- Build, develop, and retain rapport with clientele to ensure safety, trusting collaboration, and progress within the therapeutic relationship.
- Create mental status reports, biopsychosocial reports, and diagnoses of clientele to create a customized treatment plan.
- Draft, retain, and refer to HIPAA-compliant psychotherapy notes to continually align with the client goals and progress of clients.
- Provide direct clinical therapy services to individuals, couples, and families.
- Utilize evidence-based interventions to maximize progress and client potential.

***The Gucciardo Law Firm - Bingham Farms, Michigan***

Paralegal / 2019 – 2022

- Provided paralegal services for families in need of frequent contact - exclusively assigned high conflict, high emotion families.
- Draft, review, and revise various Motions, Orders, Answers, Notices, and Judgments alongside clients to determine details and factual accuracies. Organize and prepare exhibits. File pleadings with the Courts. Manage calendar for attorneys.
- Work with families involved with Child Protective Services to ensure safety plans are set in place and implemented for at-risk families.
- Draft and complete various subpoenas for records during discovery and for appearance for motions, trials, and arbitration. Create, manage, and maintain a subpoena chart to ensure all records are received in a timely manner.
- Draft and complete Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents with clients based on details of the case while maintaining compliance to court rules.
- Negotiate settlements between clients and opposing counsel and/or in pro per opposing litigants.
- Interview witnesses prior to arbitration, motion, or trial. Create, manage, and maintain “Witness Chart” with details regarding the witness's relationship with our client and what each witness can testify to for the attorney to review during

examination and testimony, coordinate arrival and departure times for witnesses to testify, inform witnesses of any potential adjournments or changes to their case, etc.

- Prepare Motion files for attorneys in preparation of Court.
- Attendance of various mediations, trials, motion calls, and arbitrations to take notes, support the Client, assist with witnesses and exhibits, and keep attorneys organized both in person and over Zoom.
- Draft and complete closing letters at the close of case files.

***Bridge Street Attorneys & Thomas N. Jones and Associates - Franklin, Tennessee***  
Paralegal / 2013 – 2017

- Family law firms that require legal experience in domestic, custodial, probate, estate planning, etc.
- Hold collaborative meetings with couples to discuss the process of filing for divorce, provide resources for court-mandated counselors, and discuss the separation of marital property and child custody in a peaceful manner.
- Review/Analyze discovery responses to find information that needs further investigation, including social media, medical providers, employment history, photographs, etc.
- Request, review, index and summarize medical and employment records while maintaining legal correctness and total confidentiality.
- Draft complaints, motions, orders, letters, deeds, petitions, and other miscellaneous pleadings for attorneys.
- Complete daily reconciliations of escrow and title accounts through Quickbooks.
- Manage and maintain complete order on all files from start to finish while providing the office with weekly updates as to current case management, invoice status, and upcoming case matters.

**ADDITIONAL RELEVANT TRAINING**

- ❖ Family & Children's Counseling Services
  - Professional Supervised Visitation Services Training – 2023
- ❖ Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
  - Compliant Implicit Bias & Human Trafficking Training – 2023
- ❖ EMDR Consulting
  - Certification in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing – 2022
- ❖ Oakland Mediation Center
  - SCAO Approved Domestic Mediation Training – 2022
- ❖ Collaborative Practice Institute of Michigan
  - Collaborative Divorce Basic Training – Child Specialist, Divorce Coach, Mental Health Specialist – 2022

- ❖ American Association of Marriage & Family Systemic Therapy Conference – 2021
  - In the Child’s Best Interest: Systemic Approaches to Co-Parenting - 2021
  - Tipping the Scales: Systemic Interventions within the Justice System – 2021
  - Supporting Military Families Impacted by Divorce, Never-Married and Stepfamily Dynamics – 2021
  - Ethics and Court Procedures – 2021
  
- ❖ Northcentral University (NCU):
  - Human Development and Family Dynamics Across the Lifespan – 2021
  - Cultural, Diversity, Gender, and Family Development – 2021
  - Legal, Ethical, Professional Development in Marriage & Family Therapy – 2020