

CRAIG CHILDRESS, PSY.D, being first duly sworn upon his oath and having personal knowledge, deposes and says:

1. I am a licensed clinical psychologist and am an expert in clinical psychology, child and family therapy, parent-child conflict, child development and diagnosis and treatment planning.
2. I have been qualified as an expert witness in these areas in ten separate cases involving high-conflict divorce across the United States and Canada.
3. I have personally reviewed the *High Road to Family Reunification* protocol, I have a professional level of understanding for what the protocol entails and how it achieves its success in restoring the normal-range attachment bonding motivations of children who have been influenced by one parent to reject a relationship with the other parent.
4. Based on my personal knowledge regarding the nature of the *High Road to Family Reunification* protocol, I included a professional analysis of the protocol as an Appendix to my book, *Single Case ABAB Assessment and Remedy*.
5. Any classification of the *High Road to Family Reunification* protocol as “controversial” likely comes from people who have not reviewed the content of the protocol, and opinions born of ignorance should not be given any weight.
6. As a professional clinical psychologist who has personally reviewed the protocol, there is nothing of concern that would make this approach “controversial.”
7. The protocol itself is a psycho-educational intervention involving a structured series of steps for restoring the child’s normal-range empathy, compassion and attachment-bonding

motivations toward a parent. It combines videos depicting family and relationship stories like one might see on a Saturday morning family television. Watching these videos depicting family stories activates the child's systems for normal-range empathy and compassion.

8. Interspersed with these video activities are structured family communication and problem solving activities that teach basic family communication and problem solving skills. These problem solving activities bring cognitive mediation to emotional experience by teaching a structured communication and problem-solving format for resolving interpersonal conflict within the family.
9. Activating the child's normal-range empathy and compassion, providing cognitive mediation for emotional experience, and teaching problem solving and communication skills for resolving interpersonal conflict establishes the surrounding context which then allows the child's normal-range attachment bonding motivations for the parent, suppressed by the pathogenic parenting of the other parent, to then reactivate, producing parent-child bonding and reunification.
10. The *High Road* protocol does not involve talking about the past. It is not a form of psychotherapy. There is no blaming of either parent so it avoids triangulating the child into the inter-spousal conflict which had occurred previously when the child was required by one parent (the allied parent) to choose sides in the spousal conflict by siding with the allied parent against the other parent (against the rejected parent).
11. The *High Road* protocols avoids activating loyalty conflicts.

12. Additionally, because the *High Road* is a catalytic intervention that systematically moves the child through a structured series of steps, it requires that the full sequence of steps be delivered within a relatively short period of time (across several sequential days), so that each step can build upon the previous ones.
13. This allows the *High Road* protocol to restore the child's normal-range attachment bonding motivations towards a parent in a relatively short period of time (a matter of days) which represents a distinct advantage over other forms of psychotherapy which would typically require months of therapy surrounding continuing family conflict.
14. As a clinical psychologist, I can foresee no potential harmful effects from activating in children empathy, compassion, and affectionate attachment bonding motivations toward a parent. Empathy, compassion and affectionate attachment bonding motivations shared between a parent and a child is typically referred to as "love." Love is not harmful. Love is nurturing and nourishing for children.
15. I want to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the Court for taking the time to read the foregoing.

Utah Code §78B-5-705

I declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah under and pursuant to the provisions of Utah Code §78B-5-705 and other relevant statutes or laws that the information and facts contained herein are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATED April 11, 2016.

/s/ Dr. Craig Childress

Signed by J. Jarom Bishop with permission of Dr. Craig Childress
Licensed Clinical Psychologist