

---

## **Contract for RDI® Program Certification**

### **Section 1: Introduction**

This contract is between \_\_\_\_\_, (“Trainee”) and Gutstein Sheely and Associates, P.C., d/b/a ConnectionsCenter. The Trainee is a college graduate, professional and/or licensed who having previously obtained significant education, skills, training, and experience wishes to receive supervision and training from ConnectionsCenter in order to qualify for Relationship Development Intervention® (“RDI®”) Program Certification; a status that can be bestowed only by Dr. Gutstein and Dr. Sheely. Parents of a child on the spectrum may apply for admission into the certification program after completion of six months documented RDI® Program work with their own child under the supervision of a Trainee or Consultant. This contract stipulates the conditions under which ConnectionsCenter will engage in ongoing supervision and training and will provide RDI® Program Certification status to Trainee. This contract does not imply any other relationship between ConnectionsCenter and Trainee other than RDI® Program Certification. Ethical and professional licensure guidelines assume precedence over the contractual agreements within this document. In providing RDI® Program Certification, ConnectionsCenter does not provide any assurance of the quality of clinical work of Trainee. Nor does ConnectionsCenter provide any assurance about the standards of conduct of Trainee. This contract does not provide any limitations or restrictions on the Trainee’s services, other than those directly related to the provision of Relationship Development Assessment “RDA™” and RDI® Programs. The execution of this contract does not indicate that the Trainee is certified by ConnectionsCenter to provide RDA™ or RDI® Program Services; certification is granted and acknowledged only upon completion of all requirements, and shall be documented only by a Certificate of RDI® Program Certification signed by Dr. Steven Gutstein and Dr. Rachelle Sheely.

### **Section 2: ConnectionsCenter Acknowledgements and Agreements**

ConnectionsCenter agrees to provide certification in RDA™ and RDI® Program to Trainee, after the satisfactory completion of ConnectionsCenter Certification process (or Re-Certification process as provided in paragraph 3K below). “Satisfactory completion” of the certification or re-certification process means that ConnectionsCenter has determined, in its sole and absolute discretion, that Trainee demonstrates proficiency with every component of the training process. Should ConnectionsCenter determine that Trainee is not exhibiting proficiency with a component of the training process, ConnectionsCenter will communicate instructions to Trainee regarding proficiencies which Trainee is lacking and for which Trainee must demonstrate satisfactory completion to earn certification or re-certification.

Additional supervision, if necessary, will be based on attached fee schedule. After being certified and following the receipt of proof of liability insurance, Trainee will receive Consultant status, and the Consultant’s name with biographical information will be displayed on ConnectionsCenter website - the rights of such posting and display may be modified by ConnectionsCenter solely at its absolute discretion. Complaints of substance, as determined in the sole discretion of ConnectionsCenter, will result in removal of said name pending investigation. Failure to renew certification will also result in removal of said name from website

without notification. Consultants are given access to revisions of documents produced by ConnectionsCenter, which they have already purchased. At the discretion of ConnectionsCenter, Trainees and Consultant may be invited to participate at no charge at publicly held ConnectionsCenter events for parents, including general workshops and intensive parent trainings. It will be the responsibility of the Trainees and Consultants to obtain information regarding events from ConnectionsCenter website and permission to attend said events from ConnectionsCenter. Consultants will be eligible for other special considerations as offered by ConnectionsCenter. No other agreements or acknowledgments are made by ConnectionsCenter other than those specifically listed herein.

### **Section 3: Trainee Acknowledgements and Agreements**

Trainee agrees to the following conditions of RDI® Program Certification. Agreement to these conditions in no way limits Trainee from providing any services in any manner he or she sees fit, other than RDA™ and RDI® Program. Trainee agrees that failure to adhere to these conditions can result in immediate revocation of RDI® Program Certification by ConnectionsCenter.

3A. Trainee must successfully complete three seminars (beginning, intermediate, and advanced) as well as professional supervision. Trainee agrees to begin professional supervision within six months of the final day of the beginning seminar. Furthermore, Trainee agrees to finish professional supervision within ten months of the first tape (NT RDA™1). Failure to comply with these deadlines will result in 'inactive' status. Re-instatement into the certification process will require a reasonable fee as described in attached fee schedule as well as demonstration that Trainee has kept up to date with the evolution of the RDI® Program through a written exam provided by ConnectionsCenter. Following an 'inactive' status of more than two years, Trainee will be required to re-apply to the certification process and complete all aspects of current certification requirements.

3B. Trainee will be responsible for participating in a minimum of three out of every four chats throughout certification.

3C. Trainee agrees to not violate in any way any of ConnectionsCenter's intellectual property rights, including copyrights and trademarks, with regard to any materials printed, taped or otherwise presented, without prior written permission from ConnectionsCenter.

3D. Trainee will make no claims to have expertise in conducting training and/or supervision of other professionals wishing to gain expertise in RDA™ and/or RDI® Program. Staff under the employ and/or supervision of Trainee will also make no claims of expertise in RDA™ or RDI® Program, unless they have received RDI® Program Certification directly from ConnectionsCenter. Trainee will be held responsible for false claims made by staff under his/her direct supervision and/or employ.

3E. Trainee will not engage in the supervision of any person for the purposes of training them to provide clinical services in RDA™ or RDI® Program.

3F. Trainee agrees to use the terms RDA™ and RDI® Program to refer to his/her paid services only if all of the following conditions are being met:

- 3F1. Trainee has conducted a full RDA™ assessment of Trainee's client(s) as stipulated by the then-existing current protocols of ConnectionsCenter, and
- 3F2. Trainee is conducting RDI® Program based upon the most recent ConnectionsCenter intervention protocols

3G. Trainee acknowledges that he or she will make no claims about expertise in conducting intensive RDI® Program parent workshops and groups and is not certified to provide such interventions.

3H. Trainee agrees to perform and represent RDA™ and RDI® Program based upon the latest theoretical and methodological protocols developed by ConnectionsCenter. Trainee shall be responsible for contacting ConnectionsCenter to obtain the latest materials.

3I. Trainee agrees to make his or her best effort to participate in the ongoing RDI® Program outcome research project based on needs and requirements as identified by ConnectionsCenter.

3J. Trainee must continue to strictly follow protocol as designated by ConnectionsCenter. Fees associated with evolutions to the protocol will be reasonably set by ConnectionsCenter. Once Trainee is granted Consultant status, he/she must continue to strictly follow this evolving protocol.

3K. Trainee understands that Certification is provided for a 12 month basis, beginning on the day on which the Certificate of RDI® Program Certification is issued. The Consultant must apply for, pay the fee for re-certification which is or shall be determined by ConnectionsCenter, and be accepted by ConnectionsCenter for Re-Certification on a yearly basis, to obtain Re-Certification. ConnectionsCenter reserves the right to De-certify Consultant or to deny re-certification to any Consultant based upon its evaluation of the Consultant's qualifications. Failure to apply for and receive recertification within one month following the anniversary of the certification will result in complete withdrawal from the certification process. If Consultant fails to achieve any of the below listed conditions in the subparts to this paragraph, Consultant may be De-Certified at the sole and absolute discretion of ConnectionsCenter and notice of such De-Certification may be published on the ConnectionsCenter website or in other ConnectionsCenter materials, at the sole and absolute discretion of ConnectionsCenter. Re-Certification will be granted based upon current protocol and compliance with all conditions within the body of this document, including the following conditions:

- 3K1. The Consultant has not received any official reprimand or loss of licensure from a State or National certifying body related to his/her field of specialization,
- 3K2. The Consultant has spent at least 100 documented hours in performing RDA™ and RDI® Program direct services,
- 3K3. The Consultant has not violated any of the provisions specified in Section 3 of this contract,
- 3K4. The Consultant has not been indicted or convicted for any Felony offense,
- 3K5. The Consultant has submitted on a yearly basis to ConnectionsCenter videotapes and supporting progress documentation, and has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Dr. Rachelle Sheely or her designee that he/she has maintained his/her proficiency in RDA™ and RDI® Program,
- 3K6. The Consultant has conducted him or herself in a professional manner and has followed all of the ethical standards of conduct specified by HIPAA, the American Psychological Association, and their own licensure boards including standards for confidentiality, record keeping, in-session behavior, Consultant-Client boundaries and community conduct,
- 3K7. ConnectionsCenter will charge a reasonable non-refundable fee, to be paid in advance, for engaging in the Re-Certification process,
- 3K8. Consultant has maintained compliance with evolutions of RDI® Program protocol through participation in a minimum of 40 professional chats per year.
- 3K9. Consultant has maintained and submitted proof of liability insurance.

#### **Section 4: Limitations and Disclaimers**

Trainee and ConnectionsCenter agree to the following terms:

4A. *Limitation of Liability, Indemnification:* Trainee hereby accepts all liability for care of Trainee's Clients, whether or not Trainee used RDI® Program or RDA™ tools in the care of Trainee's Clients, and affirms the following understandings:

- 4A1. ConnectionsCenter liability for any claims or damages resulting from or in any way connected to this contract is limited to and based upon the training given to Trainee under this contract.
- 4A2. Trainee acknowledges and agrees that ConnectionsCenter's liability under this contract will be limited to the consideration paid under this contract and in no way will ConnectionsCenter be liable for any of Trainee's consequential damages.
- 4A3. Trainee expressly agrees to indemnify ConnectionsCenter for any claims, losses, causes of action, and attorneys' fees resulting from Trainee's treatment of Clients, including any treatment of Clients by Trainee using RDI® Program or RDA™ methods. Trainee further agrees to defend ConnectionsCenter against any such claims, losses, or causes of action.

4B. *Disclaimer of Warranties:* The ConnectionsCenter hereby disclaims any and all express and implied Warranties except as provided in paragraph 4B1 below, including the Warranty of Fitness for a Particular Purpose, associated with the training provided under this contract. ConnectionsCenter neither warrants nor guarantees that Trainee's treatment of Clients will be successful, nor does ConnectionsCenter provide any warranty regarding the level of success to be achieved by application of the training provided under this contract. Trainee expressly acknowledges that no Warranties are being provided and accepts such training. Trainee further affirms that:

- 4B1. Under this contract, ConnectionsCenter is only providing the training and the Certification detailed herein, and ConnectionsCenter hereby only warrants that upon Certification, the Trainee has successfully completed the course of training in RDI® Program and RDA™ protocols.
- 4B2. Results of applying the training provided under this contract may and will vary depending on Trainee's client(s) and Trainee's skills and experience. Trainee has received significant training in client care other than and prior to the RDI® Program Certification training and Trainee does not rely on the RDI® Program training and Certification to be effective on all client or outside the parameters of provided training. ConnectionsCenter is not warranting or offering any guarantee whatsoever that Trainee's treatment of any client will be successful, or that the protocols will work in all cases. ConnectionsCenter does not make any representation or warranty regarding the level of success achievable for Trainee's Clients by use of the RDI® Program training.

## **Section 5: Consideration and Miscellaneous**

5A. *Consideration:* In consideration of the agreed upon fees, as provided in the attached schedule which is hereby incorporated into and made a part of this contract, paid in full by Trainee to ConnectionsCenter, ConnectionsCenter shall provide the RDI® Program certification under the terms and conditions provided herein. Fees for seminars and supervision are non-refundable but may be transferable in emergency situations which must be agreed to between Trainee and ConnectionsCenter. In the event of a request for an emergency based transfer of the fees, ConnectionsCenter will transfer only a pro-rated amount of the fee based on the services already provided by ConnectionsCenter at the time of the requested emergency transfer. ConnectionsCenter will retain an additional three hundred dollar (\$300.00 USD) administrative fee to cover expenses associated with the transfer request.

5B. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties. Any oral representations or understandings concerning this Agreement shall be of no force and effect. This Agreement may only be modified in a writing to be signed by all parties to this Agreement.

5C. Should ConnectionsCenter be forced to employ an attorney to enforce its rights or Trainee's obligations associated with this contract, Trainee agrees to pay the reasonable attorney fees and costs of ConnectionsCenter.

5D. This Agreement shall bind and inure to the benefit of all the respective heirs, personal representatives, successors, and assigns of the parties hereto.

5E. This Agreement shall be governed by and constructed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. The parties consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the courts of Harris County, Texas for any lawsuit or legal action relating to this Agreement.

The parties understand and agree to the forgoing conditions, and execute this contract as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trainee, Print Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ConnectionsCenter,  
by: Name & Title:\_\_\_\_\_

Date

---

## Current Fee Schedule

(Subject to change at the sole and absolute discretion of ConnectionsCenter)

Beginning Seminar	\$2200
Intermediate Seminar	\$2200
Advanced Seminar	\$2200
Professional Supervision	\$2640
Redo NT RDA™, if necessary	\$300
Redo RDA™, if necessary	\$400
Additional Supervision, if necessary	\$800/6 tapes (approx. 3 months)
Re-certification	\$400

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trainee Signature  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ConnectionsCenter,  
by: Name & Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date