



Structure & Characteristics of Judge Carole Clark’s Trauma-Informed Court

BASED ON SMITH COUNTY, TX

PHASES OF PROCESSING	COURTROOM (JUDGE/LAWYERS)	CASE MANAGEMENT (CPS)	ASSESSMENT/THERAPY
Family Group Conference prior to First Hearing		Family Group Conference	
PHASE I: Address the Safety Risk - Get Clean and Safe (-3 months)	TMC Designation Status Hearings (every 30-60 days)	Create initial IEP Supervised Home Visits (1 hour - 1 per week) Foster Parents as Coaches	Drug Assessment Inpatient/Outpatient Treatment AA/NA
PHASE II: Address the Trauma and Parenting Issues (-6 months)	Status Hearings (every 30-60 days)	Create Informed IEP based on Psych Assessment Supervised Home Visits (1 hour - 2 per week) Continued screening for drugs Foster Parents as Coaches	Psych Assessment/EMDR/Therapy Group Therapy (Circle of Security (CoS)/TBRI) AA/NA
PHASE III: Monitored Return (-3 months)	Status Hearings (every 30-60 days) Graduation/Reunification	Unsupervised Home Visits (weekends/overnights) Continued screening for drugs Foster Parents as Coaches	In-Home Coaching/Therapy (CoS/TBRI) during Home Visits AA/NA

Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) is an evidence-based, holistic model for children with histories of trauma. TBRI uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors.

Characteristics of a Trauma-Informed Culture

1. *Everyone* is trained in (TBRI): Judges, Lawyers, CASAs, Sheriffs, CPS & CPA Case Workers, Supervisors, Foster Parents, Biological Parents, Therapists, Psychologists - TBRI is the language and practice of a pervasive trauma-informed culture.
2. The *judge* creates the system by setting standards, getting the right people “on the bus”, and requiring adequate training; the judge embodies the system by his/her TBRI-informed talk with everyone in the courtroom (e.g., “What TBRI strategies have you been using?” “I am really proud of your progress!”) and by her/his understanding of the TBRI principles and strategies.
3. A trauma-informed culture/court recognizes that the parents have many of the same needs as the children, and the parents are likely to relapse unless those needs are met: the entire process is driven by assessment/therapy/coaching.
4. A trauma-informed culture is *advocacy-based*, not *adversary-based*; this applies to the legal team as well as everyone else.
5. A trauma-informed culture is designed for *success*, not *failure*; the goal is to rebuild and reunify families, not tear them apart.
6. A trauma-informed culture is based on *trust*: None of this will work without the trust of all the parties in the system.

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