



Sound Consulting Associates, LLC

Lisa Fiala, LCSW CT #4012 C:203.817.2862 lisa@soundconsultingassociatesllc.com

August 6, 2025

California Board of Psychology
1625 North Market Blvd., Suite N-215
Sacramento, CA 95834

Re: Character Reference for Dr. Craig A. Childress

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Craig A. Childress, with whom I have had the privilege of working in a professional capacity for several years. We have maintained a consistent consultation relationship, meeting monthly to discuss complex clinical cases involving family systems, high-conflict dynamics, and parent-child relational disruptions. Our collaboration has been deeply rooted in clinical rigor, ethical practice, and a shared commitment to child well-being.

Dr. Childress demonstrates exceptional clinical judgment, particularly in navigating cases where children present with unjustified rejection of a parent. In our consultations, he consistently integrates evidence-based frameworks, prioritizes differential assessment, and upholds the highest standards of ethical care. His approach reflects both deep compassion for the children and families involved and a commitment to system-level integrity.

Our work has often intersected with family court systems, where we have observed widespread gaps in understanding regarding parent-child relational disruptions. It is not uncommon for court-involved professionals, including Guardians ad Litem, custody evaluators, and mental health practitioners, to misinterpret the presenting dynamics due to a lack of specialized training in this area. The result is often a reliance on superficial behavioral assessments rather than systemic formulation, and in some cases, confirmation bias that reinforces the dominant narrative rather than testing alternative hypotheses.

In this context, Dr. Childress's contributions have been invaluable, not only in his direct clinical work, but in raising awareness of these systemic blind spots and advocating for more competent, trauma-informed, and ethically grounded practices. He brings both humility and expertise to this effort and models a standard of professionalism that benefits the field and, more importantly, the families we serve.

I have no hesitation in affirming Dr. Childress's clinical integrity, professional conduct, and commitment to advancing ethical practice in an area of work that is both emotionally charged and critically underserved.

Please feel free to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fiala, LCSW

License # CT 4012