

PARENTING PLAN SUMMARY WORKSHEET

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Because the basic legal guideline regarding parenting plan orders is the child's best interest and since parents know the child better than the judge, parents have the responsibility to think through what important needs of their child should be kept in mind when planning a healthy divorced/separated family environment.

Thinking through the following questions will help prepare for making parenting plan decisions:

1. What do you need to do to provide a healthy family environment for your child?
2. Is there any reason you could not share parenting as joint managing conservators? (managing conservatorship is restricted from a parent perpetrating family violence within the 2 years prior to the divorce petition filing)
2. How can the primary residence for the child best be established (geographic area or parent right)?
3. How will the child maximize quality time with each of the parents during
 - weekdays and weekends
 - summer
 - significant religious and secular holidays
 - birthdays
 - other special events?
4. How will illness or parental emergencies or the child's desires affect these scheduled times?
5. How will the child be transported between parental homes and who pays transportation costs?
6. What will be the policy for telephone/e-mail contact with the "absent" parent?
7. How will parents notify each other of vacation addresses and phone numbers, as well as any other relevant contact information?
8. How will the plan minimize the disruption to the child's school, daily routine, and friends?
9. What kinds of conflicts do you think could arise regarding managing your child's behavior given that you are in two households, and what guidelines can help you resolve those conflicts?
10. How will you maintain effective co-parenting communication?
11. How will major parenting decisions be made concerning the child's
 - education, i.e., school selection, extra-curricular activities, how both parents get access to information, and parental participation in activities;
 - routine and emergency health care, i.e., selection of medical, dental, and emotional health care professionals and services, as well as who takes off work for routine medical care; and
 - religious training?
12. How will the remaining legal parental rights be designated:
 - manage estate [both parents set up or parent/parent's family who sets up]
 - right to services and earnings
 - receive support payments for child
 - consent to marriage, military, and medical treatments
 - represent child in legal decisions
13. How will the support needs of the child be taken care of (food, clothing, shelter, education, medical care, etc.)?
14. At what times in the future will the plan need to be reviewed and possibly modified, such as a child entering elementary/junior high/high school, a parent moving, a parent remarrying or cohabiting, or a parent dying?
15. What approach will you use if disagreements about the parenting plan arise in the future, such as using parenting coordination, collaborative law, mediation, or arbitration before going to trial?
16. What other parenting arrangements unique to your situation need to be specified?

Shared Family Information to Facilitate Co-Parenting
[to be completed by each parent & shared with the other parent]

Mother's name _____ Date of birth _____
address _____
phone: home _____ work _____ cell _____
e-mail: _____

Father's name _____ Date of birth _____
address _____
phone: home _____ work _____ cell _____
e-mail: _____

Child's name _____ Date of birth _____
school _____ principal _____
extra curricular activities _____
church _____
doctor _____ phone _____
dentist _____ phone _____
therapist _____ phone _____

Child's name _____ Date of birth _____
school _____ principal _____
extra curricular activities _____
church _____
doctor _____ phone _____
dentist _____ phone _____
therapist _____ phone _____

Child's name _____ Date of birth _____
school _____ principal _____
extra curricular activities _____
church _____
doctor _____ phone _____
dentist _____ phone _____
therapist _____ phone _____

Child's name _____ Date of birth _____
school _____ principal _____
extra curricular activities _____
church _____
doctor _____ phone _____
dentist _____ phone _____
therapist _____ phone _____

Extended family support systems:

1. name _____ relationship _____
address _____ phone _____
2. name _____ relationship _____
address _____ phone _____
3. name _____ relationship _____
address _____ phone _____
4. name _____ relationship _____
address _____ phone _____

Legal Status of Case:

Court filed in _____ Judge _____
Court cause no. _____ Hearing date _____
Pending legal issues _____
Father's attorney _____ Phone _____
e-mail: _____ address: _____
Mother's attorney _____ Phone _____
e-mail: _____ address: _____

Child/ren's Needs for a Healthy Adjustment to Living in Separate Parental Households

[what our child/ren will some day be grateful we provided]:

Agreements:

1. Legal conservatorship of each child

2. Child Support

- a. daily living support =
- b. medical insurance coverage =
- c. uninsured medical costs =
- d. educational fund savings =

3. Parenting Time Schedule

- a. Weekdays & weekends:

- b. Holidays & birthdays:

- c. summer vacations:

ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES

The following are rights and duties that a parent in a divorce retains at all times regardless of whether the child is in the parent's care at the time that the right is exercised/duty is performed.

1.	Right to receive information from the other parent concerning the health, education and welfare of the child
2.	Right to confer with the other parent to the extent possible before making a decision concerning the health, education, and welfare of the child
3.	Right of access to medical, dental, psychological, educational, government agency, and law enforcement records of the child
4.	Right to consult with a physician, dentist, or psychotherapist of the child
5.	Right to consult with school officials concerning the child's welfare and educational status, including school activities
6.	Right to attend school and extracurricular activities
7.	Right to be designated on the child's records as a person to be notified in case of an emergency
8.	Right to consent for the child to medical, dental, and surgical treatment or mental health evaluation during an emergency involving immediate danger to the health and safety of the child
9.	Right to manage the child's estate to the extent the estate has been created by the parent or the parent's family
10.	Duty to inform the other parent in a timely manner of significant information concerning the health, education, and welfare of the child.
11.	The duty to inform the other parent if the parent resides with for at least 30 days, marries, or intends to marry a person who the parent knows is registered as a sex offender under chapter 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure or is currently charged with an offense for which on conviction the person would be required to register under that chapter. This information should be tendered in the form of a notice made as soon as practicable, but not later than the fortieth day after the date the parent of the children begins to reside with the person or on the tenth day after the date the marriage occurs, as appropriate. The notice must include a description of the offense that is the basis of the person's requirement to register as a sex offender or of the offense with which the person is charged.

The following are rights and duties that a parent in a divorce retains during the parenting times that the child is in the parent's care:

1.	Duty of care, control, protection, and reasonable discipline of the child
2.	Duty to support the child, including providing the child with clothing, food, shelter, and medical and dental care not involving an invasive procedure
3.	Right to consent for the child to medical or dental care not involving an invasive procedure
4.	Right to direct the moral and religious training of the child

The following are additional rights and duties that a parent in a divorce retains either exclusively, independently, or jointly with the other parent. An "exclusive" right or duty ("solely") is one that a parent has the sole right to exercise or duty to perform which may require notice to the other parent. An "independent" right is one that both parents have and can exercise independent of each other at any time. A "joint" ("subject to agreement") right cannot be exercised without the consent of the other parent. This chart will be explained more fully and completed during the collaborative process. These issues may need to be addressed separately for each child.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES	EXCLUSIVE MOTHER	EXCLUSIVE MOTHER After notice to Father	EXCLUSIVE MOTHER After Consultation w Father	EXCLUSIVE FATHER	EXCLUSIVE FATHER After notice to Mother	EXCLUSIVE FATHER After consultation w Mother	INDEPENDENT	INDEPENDENT After notice to other parent	INDEPENDENT After consultation w other parent	JOINT (SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT)
1. Duty to make periodic child support payments										
2. Right to receive and give receipt for periodic payments for the support of the child and hold or disburse these funds for the benefit of the child										
3. Right to designate the primary residence of the child either <input type="checkbox"/> without regard to geographic location OR <input type="checkbox"/> which must be maintained within an established geographic area: _____										
4. Right to consent for the child to medical, dental, and surgical treatment involving an invasive procedure										
5. Right to consent for the child to inpatient psychiatric and psychological evaluation										
6. Right to consent for the child to inpatient psychiatric and psychological treatment										
7. Right to consent for the child to outpatient psychiatric and psychological evaluation										
8. Right to consent for the child to outpatient psychiatric and psychological treatment										
9. Right to represent the child in legal action and to make other decisions of substantial legal significance concerning the child										
10. Right to consent to marriage										
11. Right to consent to enlistment in armed services of U.S.										
12. Right to make decisions concerning the child's education. Any special provisions: <input type="checkbox"/> _____										
13. Right to make decisions regarding the services and earnings of child [unless the child is in foster care]										
14. Except when a guardian of the child's estate or a guardian or attorney ad litem has been appointed for the child, the right to act as an agent of the child in relation to the child's estate if the child's action is required by a state, the U.S. or a foreign government										
15. Right to manage the child's estate to the extent the estate has been created by community or joint property of the parents.										

