

**Table 1. Parenting Coordination Legislation**

STATE	TITLE	DEFINITION	GOALS
<b>Oklahoma 2001</b>	Parenting Coordinator	Impartial 3 <sup>rd</sup> party to assist parties in resolving parenting & other family issues in legal actions affecting a minor child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifying disputed issues</li> <li>▪ Reducing misunderstandings</li> <li>▪ Clarifying priorities</li> <li>▪ Exploring possibilities for compromise</li> <li>▪ Developing methods of collaboration in parenting</li> <li>▪ Complying with court's order</li> </ul>
<b>Idaho 2002</b>	Parenting Coordinator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborative dispute resolution in parenting</li> <li>▪ Empower parties in resuming parenting controls &amp; decision-making</li> <li>▪ Minimize degree of conflict between parties for best interests of the children</li> </ul>
<b>Oregon 2002</b>	Unnamed individual/ panel/ Program	To assist the court in creating parenting plans or resolving disputes regarding parenting time & to assist parents in creating & implementing parenting plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gathering information</li> <li>▪ Monitoring compliance with orders</li> <li>▪ Providing parents, attorneys, and court with recommendations for new or modified parenting time provisions</li> <li>▪ Providing parents with problem solving, conflict management &amp; parenting time coordination services or other services approved by the court</li> </ul>
<b>Colorado 2005</b>	Parenting Coordinator	Neutral 3 <sup>rd</sup> party to assist in resolution of disputes concerning parental responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assist in creating guidelines for implementing parenting plan</li> <li>▪ Communication guidelines &amp; skills</li> <li>▪ Parenting skill resources</li> <li>▪ Identify causes of conflict</li> <li>▪ Parenting strategies to minimize conflict</li> </ul>
<b>Texas 2005</b>	Parenting Coordinator	Impartial 3 <sup>rd</sup> party to assist parties in resolving parenting issues in suit affecting parent-child relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifying disputed issues</li> <li>▪ Reducing misunderstandings</li> <li>▪ Clarifying priorities</li> <li>▪ Exploring possibilities for problem solving</li> <li>▪ Developing methods of collaboration in parenting</li> <li>▪ Educating re parenting plan &amp; facilitating agreements</li> <li>▪ Complying with court's order</li> <li>▪ Implementing parenting plans</li> <li>▪ Training re problem solving, conflict management &amp; parenting skills</li> <li>▪ Settling parenting disputes &amp; reaching proposed joint resolution or statement of intent regarding disputes</li> </ul>
<b>N Carolina 2005</b>	Parenting Coordinator	Impartial person who meets qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifying disputed issues</li> <li>▪ Reducing misunderstandings</li> <li>▪ Clarifying priorities</li> <li>▪ Exploring possibilities for compromise</li> <li>▪ Developing methods of collaboration in parenting</li> <li>▪ Complying with court's order</li> </ul>
<b>Louisiana 2007</b>	Parenting Coordinator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assist parties in resolving disputes &amp; reaching agreements regarding children in their care [17 examples listed]</li> <li>▪ Refrain from facilitating an agreement that would change legal custody, physical custody, visitation, or child support</li> </ul>
<b>Florida 2009</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parenting Coordination</li> <li>▪ Parenting Coordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child-focused ADR process to assist in resolution of disputes concerning their parenting plan</li> <li>▪ Impartial 3<sup>rd</sup> person to assist parents in successfully creating or implementing parenting plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assist parents in creating or implementing parenting plan:</li> <li>▪ Facilitating resolution of disputes</li> <li>▪ Providing education, making recommendations, and [with prior approval of parents &amp; court] making limited decisions within scope of court's order</li> </ul>

\* Eight states currently have passed PC legislation; other states have legislation or administrative court order plans underway, as well as use of related statutes for authority to order. Chart compiled by Dr. Lynelle C. Yingling, LMFT [[Lynelle@systemsmediation.com](mailto:Lynelle@systemsmediation.com)]. Thanks to Barbara Bartlett, JD for initiating collection of state legislation in AFCC publications & reviewing this chart.

STATE	REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDERING	PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agreement or</li> <li>▪ High conflict with</li> <li>▪ Best interest of child</li> <li>▪ Must be able to pay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set by local rules</li> <li>▪ Minimum licensed professional with experience in family &amp; children's services</li> </ul>
<b>Idaho</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agreement</li> <li>▪ Appointed by the court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parties select who agree to</li> <li>▪ Be neutral to the dispute &amp; parties</li> <li>▪ Criminal history check</li> <li>▪ No retainer required</li> <li>▪ Supreme Court list of mediators</li> <li>▪ Knowledge of child development</li> <li>▪ 20 hrs training in domestic violence</li> </ul>
<b>Oregon</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Established by presiding judge</li> <li>▪ May require mediation skills</li> </ul>
<b>Colorado</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Failed to implement parenting plan</li> <li>▪ Mediation inappropriate or failed</li> <li>▪ Best interest of child</li> <li>▪ Consider domestic violence impact on ability to engage in PC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current/past/future evaluator excluded</li> </ul>
<b>Texas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agreement or</li> <li>▪ High conflict with</li> <li>▪ Best interest of child</li> <li>▪ Family violence exclusion if verified by court hearing</li> <li>▪ Must be able to pay cost unless government agency provides service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set by court; can be waived by court with agreement of parties except for family violence training</li> <li>▪ Work experience in family related field with high-conflict cases or litigation between parents</li> <li>▪ Education: counseling, education, family studies, psychology, or social work bachelor's degree or mental health master's degree with emphasis in family &amp; child issues or licensed attorney</li> <li>▪ 8 hrs family violence training</li> <li>▪ 40 hrs in dispute resolution techniques</li> <li>▪ 24 hrs in family dynamics, child development, family &amp; parenting coordination law, &amp; parenting coordination styles &amp; procedures</li> </ul>
<b>N Carolina</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agreement or</li> <li>▪ High conflict with</li> <li>▪ Best interest of child</li> <li>▪ Must be able to pay</li> <li>▪ Selected from list maintained by court</li> <li>▪ Required appointment conference for parties, attorneys, &amp; parenting coordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Masters or doctorate in psychology, law, social work, counseling, medicine, or related subject</li> <li>▪ 5 years related professional post-degree experience</li> <li>▪ Current license if applicable</li> <li>▪ 24 hours training in child development, high-conflict family dynamics, stages &amp; effects of divorce, problem solving techniques, mediation, &amp; legal issues</li> <li>▪ Continuing education including group discussion &amp; peer review support</li> </ul>
<b>Louisiana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good cause if previous child custody judgment entered other than ex parte order</li> <li>▪ Shall appoint with joint motion of parties</li> <li>▪ Must be able to pay</li> <li>▪ Appointment term for up to 1 year which is renewable</li> <li>▪ Family violence history exclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Master's, PhD, or equivalent mental health degree [psychiatry, psychology, social work, marriage &amp; family counseling, professional counseling]</li> <li>▪ LA licensed mental health professional</li> <li>▪ 3 years post-degree experience</li> <li>▪ LA qualified mediator</li> <li>▪ 40 hrs PC training; 14 hrs of family mediation training may be used towards the 40 hrs; training includes judicial system &amp; procedures, ethical standards including confidentiality &amp; conflicts of interest, child development &amp; divorce impact, parenting techniques, parenting plans &amp; time schedules, family systems theory, communication skills, domestic violence effects, &amp; PC process &amp; documentation execution</li> <li>▪ 20 hrs PC continuing ed every 2 years</li> </ul>
<b>Florida</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agreement of the parties</li> <li>▪ Court's own motion</li> <li>▪ Motion of a party</li> <li>▪ If history of domestic violence, parties must both freely consent</li> <li>▪ Must be able to pay unless public funds available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unless parties can agree to person not meeting below qualifications, court must appoint PC with following qualifications:</li> <li>▪ Licensed mental health professional or psychiatrist or FL certified family law mediator with minimum master's degree in mental health field or member of FL bar &amp; in good standing with credentialing body</li> <li>▪ 3 years postlicensure/postcertification practice</li> <li>▪ Family mediation training program certified by FL Supreme Court</li> <li>▪ Min 24 hrs PC training including concepts &amp; ethics, family systems theory &amp; application, family dynamics in separation &amp; divorce, child &amp; adolescent development, PC process, PC techniques, FL family law &amp; procedure, &amp; min 4 hrs in DV and child abuse related to PC</li> <li>▪ Court may require additional qualifications for specific issues</li> </ul>

STATE	REPORT TO COURT	DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY	CITATION
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ File decisions &amp; recommendations within 20 days</li> <li>▪ Parties can file objection to PC decisions &amp; recommendations within 10 days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May not make decision on custody, visitation or support.</li> <li>▪ The decision cannot modify any existing court order;</li> <li>▪ The decision may not abrogate either parent's custodial or noncustodial rights.</li> </ul>	43 O.S. §120.1 et seq.; www.oscn.net
<b>Idaho</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide a minimum of 1 status report to the court every 6 months</li> </ul>		Title 32 Domestic Relations, Chapter 7 Divorce Actions; 32-717D. Idaho Code; IRCP Rule 16(l)
<b>Oregon</b>			O.R.S. 107.425(3)
<b>Colorado</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records &amp; testimony privileged except by agreement of parties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can be combined with appointment of decision-maker by agreement of parties</li> <li>▪ Decision-maker has binding authority to resolve disputes concerning children, including parenting time, disputed parental decisions, &amp; child support consistent with substantive intent of court order</li> <li>▪ Decisions subject to de novo hearing</li> </ul>	Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 14, Section 1, Article 10 [14-10-128.1]
<b>Texas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records &amp; testimony privileged</li> <li>▪ Report to court whether process should continue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitate agreements but no authority to make binding decisions</li> <li>▪ Submit agreements to court for approval</li> </ul>	Texas Family Code §153.601-611, 153.0071(G)& TX Civil Practice & Remedies Code §154.053 & §154.073; Revised 2007 by HB 555 & 2009 by HB 1012
<b>N Carolina</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Report to court, parties, &amp; attorneys if order not in best interest of child or PC not qualified for issues</li> <li>▪ Written summary of each meeting &amp; copies of written communication to parties &amp; attorneys</li> <li>▪ Records &amp; testimony subpoenaed only by presiding judge</li> <li>▪ Judge reviews records in camera &amp; decides if to release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited by agreement if parties consent to appointment</li> <li>▪ May be authorized to decide parenting plan implementation issues not specifically governed by court order if parties unable to resolve; binding until court reviews</li> </ul>	North Carolina General Statutes Section 1. Chapter 50 Article 5 [HB 1221]
<b>Louisiana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Notify court of conflict of interest</li> <li>▪ Shall not be called as a witness without prior court approval based on demonstrated need for testimony &amp; evidence cannot be adduced from other sources</li> <li>▪ Prepare interim &amp; final reports as ordered by court &amp; other reports when necessary</li> <li>▪ Distribute reports to court, parties, &amp; their attorneys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If parties unable to reach agreement, PC may make recommendation in report to the court for resolution of dispute</li> </ul>	Louisiana Revised Statutes 9:358.1-358.9; 2007 Senate Bill No. 208. Act No. 265
<b>Florida</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communications made by, between, or among parties &amp; PC confidential</li> <li>▪ PC or parties may not testify re communications with exceptions [necessary re agreement, identify issues for court resolution, compliance with orders, case not appropriate, PC not qualified or willing to serve, family violence, parties agree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ With prior approval of parents &amp; court, make limited decisions within court order</li> </ul>	Florida Statutes section 61.125; 2009 senate bill #904; www.flsenate.gov