



PLANNING GUIDE OF POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Provided by The Dispute Resolution Center

A Parenting Plan for your children needs to include where your children will live, how decisions will be made for your children's welfare, and how will your children spend time with both of you. Listed below are possible topics for discussion.

1) Residency:

- Where will your children live?
- What is your child(ren)'s address (ex: school purposes)

2) Decision Making:

- Individually or jointly?
- How are decisions being made presently?
- Day-to-day decisions?
- Long term decisions?

3) How will children spend time with their parents?

- Weekly schedule and routines (When does this schedule begin?)
- Holiday (New Year's, Easter, Memorial Day, 4th July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Religious Celebrations)
- Birthdays (Theirs & Yours)
- School recesses
- Summer vacations
- Special occasions
- Long weekends
- Family gathering
- Extracurricular activities
 - Notification of needed schedule changes
 - Transportation – transfers
 - Transition

4) Transportation:

- Who is transporting child to the other parent?
- Location of drop off/pick-up? (Parent home or neutral site)
- Expected time of pick-up and drop-off.

5) Communication:

- Between Parents – Separating adult relationship issues from parenting issues, mutually agreeable topics for discussion in front of children
- Between Parents and Children: Communicating with children about other parent, carrying messages from one parent to the other, access to phone and e-mail
- With extended family
- Title, labels, last names
- Explaining parenting plan to children
- Parent phone numbers-how to contact, when to contact?

6) Living Arrangement with Each Parent:

- Space for children, Bedrooms and indoor-outdoor play area
- Clothing and laundry – toys and equipment
- Meals and nutrition
- Discipline plans

7) Childcare:

- Parental right of first refusal
- Substitute childcare providers

8) Education:

- Homework
- School records
- Conferences, meetings, school events and notifications
- Tutoring
- Special needs
- Higher education and college preparation activities
- Private school
- Home schooling
- Alcohol and drug education
- School attendance

9) Medical:

- Records
- Appointments (Scheduling and attendance)
- Medication
- Professional counseling

10) Geographic Considerations:

- Relocation
- Foreign travel - Passports
- Long distance – out of State travel
- Planning and notice to other parent

11) Extended Family:

- Grandparents
- Other relatives
- New spouse
- Significant others
- Adult overnights

12) Other: (Decision Making)

- Camp
- Spiritual Guidance/Religious beliefs and practices
- Lessons (other than school related)
- Vehicle and auto insurance
- Pets
- Chores and Responsibilities
- Sports
- Make-up, tattoos, body piercing, hygiene, grooming
- Jobs
- Curfews
- Allowance
- Smoking – Parents and children
- Safety plans