

APPENDIX 4.1

PARENTING PLAN CATEGORIES

Parental Communication:

- How: email, fax, telephone, meeting
- Frequency
- Response time (e.g., respond to emails within 48 hours)
- Transition emails (frequency, content)
- Emergencies

Child Communication:

- Timing
- Who initiates
- Call-back rules

Transitions:

- Pick up and drop off days and times
- Location
- Rules for parental behavior at transitions, i.e., cordial, no exchange of child support
- Who does the transportation, e.g., for toddlers always drop off, don't pick up

Parenting Time and Changes:

- Days and hours
- Illness
- Cancellation policies

- Rescheduling/swap rules
- Right of First Refusal (overnights only?)

Holidays, Special Days, and Vacations:

- Monday holidays: attached to weekend or alternate even and odd years
- Religious holidays: alternate years? Time of transition, place of transition
- School vacations: how assigned, when do they begin and end (day and time)
- Summer vacations: number of weeks—consecutive or not, first and second choice assignments, dates of notice
- What happens to the usual schedule when holiday schedule ends?
- Rules for continuation or change in usual rotation: no parent has children three consecutive weekends
- Child birthdays: alternate, each have a block of time, who schedules birthday party, who attends
- Parent birthdays
- Mother's Day and Father's Day

Extracurricular Activities:

- Do both parents agree? Can parent schedule only on time they have child?
- Rules for sports games, recitals, special occasions related to activities

Clothing and equipment:

- Rules around clothing, washing, returning
- Rules for exchange of sports equipment, musical instrument, bicycles, etc.
- Rules for lost and missing items

Day to Day Decisions:

- Scheduling of routine medical and dental: who does it and is other parent notified and when?
- Who attends?
- How is information shared? Response time
- Scheduling and attendance at parent-teacher meetings
- Sharing of school information
- Emergency contacts

Major Decisions (Health, Education, Religion):

- How are these decided?
- Exchange of Information

Travel:

- Communication rules for taking child out of town: itinerary details, notice rules
- Notarized travel letter: when is it provided?
- Phone access
- Sleeping rules
- Supervision rules
- Who holds the passports?

General Parenting:

- Shared routines regarding homework; communication regarding homework
- Agreements about discipline and supervision between homes
- Keeping children out of the middle
- No negative comments about the other parent
- Cordial parent behavior in front of the children

- Significant others and dating

Review and adjustment of parenting plan:

- How initiated and when?
- Future dispute resolution