



COOPERATIVE PARENTING AGREEMENT

Cooperative Parenting Coaching/Parenting Facilitation is a process whereby parents living apart agree to act jointly in the best interest of their children, by establishing two homes and by consulting with one another concerning the needs of their children and their own needs as co-parents.

AGREEMENT:

We have _____ minor child(ren). We have listed their names and birthdays below:

We agree to act as co-parents to our children as follows:

ACTIVITIES:

Both parents may attend any activities in which the children participate. Either parent may enter the children into activities, which occur exclusively during their parenting time and which do not involve the other parent's time or money. Neither parent will enter the children into any activity, which involves the other parent's possession time or money without obtaining the other parent's alignment.

INFORMATION SHARING:

Information concerning minor medical or emergency medical procedures will be shared as soon as possible with the other parent. Each parent will communicate with the other parent information about the children's extra-curricular activities. This will include a schedule and the name, phone number and email address of the activity leader, if available. Information concerning the children's school data will be transferred between the parents. This will include report cards, progress reports, homework, information concerning school pictures, school programs in which the children participate, and parent-related activities (parent-teacher meetings, back to school night, etc.).

DECISION MAKING:

Major decisions will be made jointly. This includes major medical, dental and psychological treatment, grade and special program placement, and/or change of schools.

PROBLEM-SOLVING:

The parties agree to meet in a calm, quiet, uninterrupted environment to discuss any child custody or childcare issues. The parties will meet jointly with physicians, educators, psychologists, law enforcement authorities, or other professionals as needed to work toward any custody or child behavior problems. This provision does not preclude either parent from meeting separately with such professionals, but each will inform the other of such meetings in advance whenever possible, and always as soon as possible. Each parent will give full written authorization to the other parent to obtain any information concerning any counseling, treatment, or other records of the child. If the parties cannot resolve a dispute under this agreement by separate discussion and negotiation, then a condition precedent to seeking a court order of any kind, the parties will mediate their dispute with their Parenting Coach/Facilitator/Coordinator, or with a mediator having expertise in family and child custody issues agreed upon by the parties. The parties will bear this expense equally.

STATEMENT OF RESPECT:

1. Neither party will denigrate or demean the character or behavior of the other party in the presence of the children and will generally refer to the other parent with respect.
2. We will share in both the joys and challenges of raising our children as we share in the decision-making process related to their health, education, religious training, recreational activities, and general well-being.
3. Although there may be disagreements between us, we will not permit them to be inflicted upon our children. We acknowledge that we are both good people who are simply unable to live together. We believe that every child should have in his or her mind an image of two good parents, and we will work towards that end.
4. We will leave our children free to love and respect both of us. We will not discuss the shortcomings of the other parent in front of the children, nor permit others to do so, as well.
5. We will work towards maintaining a friendly relationship and will try to be considerate of each other's feelings and concerns.
6. We will not use any disagreements over the children as an excuse to continue arguments between us.
7. When either of us is with our children, we will be discreet if we are including others with whom we may be intimately involved.

8. We will make the period of time with our children a normal experience. Every time we are together does not have to be "Disneyland" for them.
9. In planning time with the children, especially as they become older, we will be sure to consider their needs and wishes.
10. We will make the time with our children as pleasant as possible by showing our interest in their activities and avoiding asking questions regarding their time with the other parent. Also, we will not make promises to them unless we know that we can keep them.
11. Each parent will notify the other parent as soon as possible if he or she is unable to keep the agreed upon schedule, as a failure to give notice is unfair to the other parent and the children.
12. Neither parent will schedule activities that conflict with the other parent's custody, however, if one parent has plans for the children that are conflicting, and these plans are in the best interest of the children, we will be adult and arrive at an agreeable solution.
13. The parent with whom the children have just been living with will prepare the children both physically and emotionally for spending time with the other parent and will have them available at the agreed upon time.
14. WE WILL ACKNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT ANY DIFFERENCES WE HAVE IN OUR PARENTING TECHNIQUES AND ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE THOSE DIFFERENCES, AS WE WORK TOGETHER IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR CHILDREN.

SIGNED AND AGREED TO BY:

_____ DATE: _____

_____ DATE: _____