

PARENTING PLAN

PARENTING PRINCIPLES

1. We agree that our child, _____, needs the following:
 - a. To know we both love him.
 - b. To have two homes in every sense of the word.
 - c. To be left out of conflict between us.
 - d. For us to live in close enough proximity to each other to co-parent effectively.
 - e. To be emotionally, physically and financially secure.
 - f. To be supported to achieve academic and personal success, based on his goals and interests.
 - g. To have his stage of development respected.
 - h. To have the benefit of expert advice, when needed to assist in determining his best interests.
 - i. To have his wishes taken into account, when appropriate.

The parties recognize through these principles the importance for their son to have two involved, loving parents throughout his life. The parties recognize that through parental co-operation any harm to can be minimized.

2. This agreement is designed to support the challenges faced by the family and ensure that the parents will work co-operatively and share parenting tasks and responsibilities.

RESIDENCE OF THE CHILD

3. _____ shall have a residence with his mother and his father at times set forth under the headings "Mother's Care Periods" and "Father's Care Periods".

A one-year calendar will be drawn up covering all holidays, birthdays and special days. Once established this calendar will be used by the father and mother. It will be reviewed and updated by Aug. 31 of each year. _____ .

The need to meet work schedules may necessitate some flexibility. The parents both agree that it is in the interests of _____ that the other parent will have additional parenting (i.e. first opportunity) when the other parent requires care support during their care period.

The following guidelines shall be followed:

- a. An overnight absence during the Care Period. The right of first opportunity must be made available to the other parent. There is no obligation that the other parent will exercise this option.
- b. No trade-off time is required.

- c. The grandparent option should be also considered during any absence as the next choice of opportunity.

The mechanics of the right of first opportunity will be subject to review every August.

DAY-TO-DAY DECISIONS

4. The parent residing with their child at the relevant time will make the daily decisions affecting their welfare.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS

5. The father and mother will make important decisions about welfare together, including decision's re:

- a. Education;
- b. Major non-emergency health care;
- c. Major recreational activities;
- d. Child care;
- e. Religious activities;

If the parties cannot agree, they will use the problem solving section of this plan to resolve the difference.

6. The mother and father will share parenting such that the parents shall make independent decisions in the best interests of when he is residing with them. The mother and father will receive information with respect to health, education and welfare in the event that a dispute arises referable to a major parenting decision; they will use the problem solving section of the agreement to resolve the difference.

7. MOTHER'S CARE PERIODS/ FATHER CARE PERIODS

a. The mother/father shall have all times specified under the calendar of Mother Care Periods/Father Care Periods. This will be subject to the additional provision re: replacement time

b. During Mother Care Periods/Father Care Periods the other parent is encouraged to participate in their son's extra curricular activities at school or in the community.

c. During Mother Care Periods/Father Care Periods the other parent is encouraged to have direct communication by telephone or email on a daily basis with _____. This may be altered or modified to meet specific concerns.

d. During Mother Care Periods/Father Care Periods the other parent is encouraged to visit with their son during any hospital stay. Hospitalization of _____ requires timely notification to the other parent.

f. In case of a school emergency the parents will determine the order to be called by the school based on their normal availability. That will be reviewed prior to each school year.

CO-OPERATION ON PARENTING ISSUES

The parents shall have joint custody of _____.

9. The parties agree and undertake that in all matters relating to the custody, maintenance, education and general well-being of _____, that the interests of _____ shall at all times be paramount, and the father and mother agree to place their own convenience second to the convenience and interest of the children.

10. The parties agree that their separation could do emotional harm to and they agree to do everything to ensure that the life of _____ is disrupted as little as possible. The mother and father shall consciously respect the rights of one another regarding the child of the marriage. Neither parent shall, in any act, omission or innuendo, or in any way tend to alienate Joshua from either parent.

11. Each parent will endeavor to conduct their interactions with each other in keeping with their child's best interests. Both parents recognize that the most difficult times are in the transition periods when Joshua is being picked up or dropped off.

Both parents commit to making these transition periods as harmonious as possible.

12. It is agreed and understood between the parties that they shall maintain a reasonable and flexible position regarding the care period/residency arrangements of _____ and at all times the best interests of _____ shall prevail.

13. The parents shall communicate with each other re: matters pertaining to _____. The parties will accept a method of communication that is most comfortable to the party most struggling with any form of direct contact.

WILL NOT be asked to carry information to the other parent re: proposed change to schedules, etc.

During a specific care period, the other parent will be encouraged to talk to [redacted] by telephone or email. Again, the parties should negotiate the ground rules for this contact by keeping in mind the goals to full contact for both parents to [redacted] on a daily basis.

14. Neither parent shall speak ill of the other parent in [redacted] presence; they shall not participate in angry remarks that the child might make about the other parent. To this end each parent should restrain such comments in front of mutual friends and in front of relatives who have regular contact with their child.

15. A parent may on occasion hear [redacted] speak about the difficulties that the child may be having with the other parent. That parent should encourage the child to speak directly to the other parent. If the issue raises safety concerns, that parent should make immediate contact with the other parent. This should lead to the parties taking appropriate action to remedy the concern.

16. The above code of conduct for the parents shall be binding upon any new partner.

17. The father and mother may attend all school functions. They may attend teacher meetings together or separately. Each parent will obtain his or her own school calendar and school notices. Both parents will be part of any decision at the school re their child's well being.

18. All health care information will be provided in a timely fashion to the other parent following appointments. Each parent will be in possession of/or a copy of birth certificate or health insurance card.

19. The parents agree to seek personal counseling to resolve hostility and anger associated with the failure of the marriage if these emotions interfere with effective communication regarding [redacted]. Both parties agree to attend jointly or separately appropriate parenting programs to deal with the separation or the introduction of a new partner.

20. The parties agree to discuss the appropriateness of professional assistance if their child is experiencing distress from the separation and is struggling with their relationship with either or both of their parents.

21. The parties agree that there shall be full disclosure between them in all matters touching the welfare of [redacted] and they agree that they shall confer as often as necessary to consider any problem or difficulty or matter regarding consideration touching Joshua's welfare.

TRAVEL

22. If either parent plans a vacation with [redacted], that parent will give the other a detailed itinerary at least TWO weeks before it begins, including if applicable, the name of any flight carrier, accommodation, including address, telephone #'s and

details on how to contact Joshua during the trip. The parties will arrive at pre-arranged contact time for the non-vacationing parent with the child.

23. The appropriate travel letter for cross border travel for _____ will be provided within one week of the date of travel. The child's passport will be delivered (if applicable) to the appropriate parent within the same time period.

CHILD SUPPORT

24. The parents of _____, namely _____, agree that child support will be paid based on the Federal Child Support Guidelines.

The payments will be based on the T4 return as of April 30.

PROBLEM SOLVING

25. Should issues arise concerning the implementation of this parenting plan and/or any child related issue, we agree to resolve them as follows:

- a. As a first step, we will communicate directly with each other verbally or through written communication.**
- b. If the issue is not resolved under step (a), we will meet to discuss the issue.**
- c. If the issue is not resolved under step (b), we will attend a mediation session for a minimum of one session. The mediation costs will be shared equally between us.**
- d. The mother will make the final decision.**