

Proposed Parenting Plan

The terms describing custodial arrangements can be confusing at times. Legal custody refers to the right to make major life decisions regarding the care and upbringing of the minor child or children; it does not denote where the child lives the majority of the time or minor decisions that are made in a child's life on a daily basis. Unless the parties agree or unless there are extreme circumstances (drug use or physical abuse), it is rare that a court will award sole legal custody. Courts tend to award parents joint legal custody of the child or children.

There is also "residential custody". This simply means the location and with whom the child lives most of the time. When one person has residential custody, the other person then has specific "parenting time" with the child or children. This is the normal arrangement.

However, there are also other types of residential custody. There can be a shared custody arrangement in which the child or children live in basically two homes spending approximately 50% of the time in dad's house and 50% of the time in mom's house. There is also a custodial arrangement in which one child lives with one parent and the other child lives with the other parent. This is called a split custody arrangement and it is rarely, if ever, ordered by the court unless the parents believe that it is the best custodial arrangement for the children.

There is one other thing you want to keep in mind is that regardless of the custodial arrangement, no custodial arrangement gives you the right to dictate how the other person cares for the child or children when they are with that person. A consequence of no longer living with or being married to the other parent is that you no longer have any say in that individual's parenting style. Learning this now can save you a lot of heartache in the long run.

This section allows me to see what custodial arrangement and parenting plan that you believe would be in your child or your children's best interest. Please keep in mind that this had to do with the child(ren) and not just your desires.

Current Parenting Plan:

Parenting Time for ☐ You ☐ Your Spouse

☐ **First half of winter School Break** governed by the calendar of Unified School District No. _____ located in _____ from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Spring Break** governed by the calendar of Unified School District No. _____ located in _____ from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Memorial Day** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Summer Break** governed by the calendar of Unified School District No. _____ located in _____ from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **4th of July** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Labor Day** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Thanksgiving Day** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **New Years Eve** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **New Years Day** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Mother and Father's Day** each year with the respective parent from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m.

☐ **Child(ren) Birthday** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

Common Christian Holidays

☐ **Easter** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Christmas Eve** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Christmas Day** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

Common Jewish Holidays

☐ **Rosh Hashana** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Yom Kippur** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Sukkot** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at
_____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Shmini Atzeret** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Simchat Torah** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Chanukah** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at
_____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Purim** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at
_____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Pesach** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at
_____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Shavuot** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at
_____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Tish'a B'Av** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

Common Muslim Holidays

☐ **Eid Al-Fitr** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____ at
_____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

☐ **Eid Al-Adha** from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20____.

Other Holidays

☐ _____ from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20 ____.

☐ _____ from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20 ____.

☐ _____ from _____ at _____ .m. to _____
at _____ .m. during ☐ even years ☐ odd years, starting 20 ____.

☐ **Vacation** – ex. Each parent to be allowed up to _____ consecutive weeks each year to take the child(ren) on a family vacation. This time is to be scheduled when school is not in session and so as not to interfere with any holiday times listed above. Each parent must pick his or her vacation time by (what date) _____ for summer vacation. If there is overlap in the parenting time suggested, father/mother gets to choose in ☐ even ☐ odd years and the other parent in the opposing years. Each parent must give the other parent at least _____ months' notice in writing prior to any trip with an itinerary of the trip and emergency contact numbers, prior to exercising this time. Now list what you would like to list as a vacation schedule.

Parenting Time for ☐ You ☐ Your Spouse

☐ This parent shall have all weekdays and weekends not specifically set forth above.

☐ This parent shall have all holidays not specified above.

☐ Other _____

☐ **Priorities**

☐ Holidays and special days specified above will have precedence over weekday and weekend visitation.

☐ Holidays have priority over other special occasions.

☐ There shall be no adjustment for “missed” weekends or weekdays due to interruption by specified holidays and special days. The parties are encouraged to compensate for missed weekends so that a parent will not go more than two weekends without having weekend parenting time.

☐ Other _____

☐ **Exchange Point:** The exchange point for the child(ren) shall be:

☐ The home of the ☐ Mother ☐ Father ☐ Other: _____

☐ **Notice of Intent to exercise or not to exercise parenting time:**

☐ The Mother/Father parent shall notify the other parent _____ days in advance of intent to exercise scheduled parenting time. If notification is not given, the subject parenting time will be considered waived.

☐ Except for extreme and exceptional circumstances a parent is not required to wait for the other parent more than _____ minutes before the parenting time is considered waived.

☐ Other: _____

☐ **Other contact Between Parent and Child(ren)**

☐ **Telephone/Facetime Contact.** Each parent is allowed reasonable telephone access to their child(ren) at reasonable hours without interference from the other parent. Telephone contact with a child(ren) should not be used as an opportunity by either parent to discuss issues not related to the child(ren) with the other parent. When telephone contact is attempted to be made with the child(ren), the child(ren) should either have direct access to the telephone or the telephone should be given directly to the child(ren) with a minimum of conversation between the parents unless necessary for discussion of matters related to that contact. Any parent shall not refuse to answer or turn off the phone. Each parent shall supply the other parent with current telephone numbers.

☐ **Mail & Email Contact.** Each parent with whom the child(ren) is not then living should have unlimited ability to contact each other by use of either regular United States mail or electronic mail, if such an account is available. The parent seeking mail contact must provide self-addressed stamped envelopes for the child(ren) to use. If available, current e-mail addresses where the child(ren) may be contacted shall be supplied to both parents by each parent. Where possible, reasonable computer access shall be allowed.

☐ **Right of First Refusal** – If at any point in time it becomes necessary to leave the child(ren) in the care of someone besides the parent or natural guardian referred to in this parenting plan for more than _____ hours or days, each party

must give the other party the right to exercise parenting time with the child before contacting another individual or agency to care for the child(ren). (This does not include regular childcare that is used while a parent is at work)

☐ **Other Considerations and Agreements:**
