

© 2016 Kate Willmore, 1407 33rd Street South, Saint Cloud, MN 56301
Telephone: (320) 492-3606 E-Mail: kaw@katewillmorelaw.com
www.katewillmorelaw.com www.katewillmoremediation.com
www.katewillmorelawblog.com

Parenting Plan Worksheet for:

Mother: _____

Father: _____

County Court File No.: _____

This worksheet is designed to assist you in developing a parenting plan. This not a legal form that you file with the court.

If you have an attorney or get an attorney, then you should have your attorney review this document and advise you before you sign it.

If you are acting as you own attorney, then you may sign for yourself.

The worksheet is meant as a tool to get you and your spouse or significant other thinking about how you both want to parent in the best interests of your child or children. Be creative, thoughtful and do not be concerned about drafting a plan that must remain static. You will probably both want to modify any plan as your child's or children's needs change.

PARENTING AGREEMENT WORKSHEET

Our primary concern in developing a Parenting Plan is to meet our child's needs. We have developed the following Parenting Plan for the benefit of our child:

LEGAL CUSTODY AND MAJOR DECISION MAKING

A. EDUCATION

Each parent will contact our child's school to get information about our child's needs, progress, special events and parent-teacher conferences. We agree to share our child's school information with each other. Recognizing that college or technical training is important, we will encourage and support our child's efforts for further education.

1. **Parent-Teacher Conferences.** We have made the following arrangements for attending parent-teacher conferences: _____

2. **Events.** We have the following agreement for attending school or extra-curricular events our child participates in:

3. **Other:** _____
4. **Major decisions about our child's education will be made by:**
 Both parents or Parent _____

B. MEDICAL CARE

It is important to provide our child with good medical care. This may include dental, physical health and psychological/counseling services for our child's guidance and behavioral health. We have discussed who will make appointments; attend appointments; receive reports; transport our child; and how information will be conveyed to the other parent.

1. **Medical appointments.** We agree that primary responsibility for scheduling appointments shall be as follows: _____

2. **Emergencies.** To assure that our child receives immediate medical attention, each parent may consent to emergency medical treatment for our child without waiting for the consent of the other parent. The other parent will be notified immediately.
3. **Other:** _____
4. **Major decisions about our child's medical care will be made by:**
 Both parents or Parent _____

C. RELIGION AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

1. We have discussed attendance at religious and cultural events and have agreed as follows:

2. **Major decisions about religious or cultural events involving our child will be made by:** Both parents or Parent _____.

D. LEGAL CUSTODY

The LEGAL CUSTODY of our child shall be:

- () Joint Legal Custody
- () Sole Legal Custody to Parent_____
- () Other Legal Custody Arrangement/Alternative

Terms_____

E. PHYSICAL CUSTODY AND PARENTING TIME

1. RESIDENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS/PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE

2. The parenting time schedule indicates the time our child spends with each parent. We agree on the following parenting time with (parent's name)_____

:

and the following parenting time with (other parent's name)

:_____:

3. We recognize there will be times the schedule will need to be changed because of changes in our lives and the life of our child. We agree to be open to make adjustments.

4. We recognize decision making is an important part of parenting. We agree that the parent our child is with (the "on-duty" parent) will make decisions about his/her day-to-day care.

5. We agree to treat each other with respect, be on time and provide as much advance notice as possible with any schedule changes.

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6. Regular Parenting Time Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

7. **Holiday Schedule:** Below is a list of Holidays and special occasions frequently included in Holiday schedules. Parents are encouraged to make changes and additions to develop a plan that reflects the occasions that are meaningful to them and their child. **The following holiday parenting time plan supersedes the usual ongoing parenting time arrangement:**

Holiday	Time Period	Odd Years Numbered	Even Years Numbered
Birthdays:			
Holidays:			
Easter			
Mother's Day			
Memorial Day			
Father's Day			
July 4th			
Labor Day			
Thanksgiving			
Christmas Eve			
Christmas Day			
School Breaks:			
Spring Break			
Winter Break			
MEA Weekend			
Other Religious or Cultural Holidays:			

8. Vacation Schedule

We want our child to spend enjoyable vacation time with each parent. We have discussed the following ways that we will support our child's vacation planning:

- a. **Vacation Arrangements.** We agree to the following process for planning vacation time with our child each year:

Notice. We agree to give the other the parent the following advance notice before the anticipated vacation dates if the vacation affects the usual parenting time or holiday schedule:

- b. **Vacation Transportation.** We agree to the following vacation transportation plan:

- c. **Emergency Contact During Vacation.** Each parent will supply the other with emergency contact information for vacation periods as follows:

- d. **Non-Emergency Vacation Telephone Contact Between Child and Other Parent.** We wish to have our child contact the other parent during our vacation time with our child as follows:

F. OTHER ONGOING CONTACT WITH OUR CHILD

- 1. **Phone Calls.** Phone calls are one of the many ways positive contact with parents can be encouraged and continued. We agree to allow each parent to have phone contact with our child as follows:

- 2. **Mail.** We agree our child and each parent will be able to contact each other by mail as follows:

G. LONG DISTANCE CONTACT

If either parent lives a significant distance from our child we agree to develop a plan to maintain good contact with our child. This may include e-mail, videotape and audio tape in addition to mail and telephone contact. We agree our child and each parent will be able to contact each other as follows:

H. PARTICIPATION IN CHILD'S ACTIVITIES

We agree our child benefits from our support of his/her extra-curricular, athletic, religious, arts and cultural activities. We agree to the following plan:

1. In making decisions about our child's activities we will consider our child's interests as well as the impact these activities may have on the time our child spends with each parent. Based on these considerations, we agree that our child should participate in the following activities: _

2. We agree to consult with the other parent before registering our child for activities that may have an impact on the other parent's parenting time.

3. We have made the following agreement for parent participation and attendance at our child's athletic, arts and cultural activities:_____

4. We agree to share information regarding our child's activities with each other.

I. CHILD CARE

1. We have talked about child care, including who chooses the child care provider, picks up and/or drops off our child, emergency contact information and who is able to visit our child at daycare. We have agreed as follows:_____

2. We recognize that as our child gets older, we will need to review and make changes about alternate care; to agree on the age our child may be left alone and for how long our child may be left alone without supervision.

3. We have discussed who will be responsible for our child if our child is sick or needs to stay home from daycare or school. We have agreed:_____

4. We have discussed if we would like to be the first choice for back-up care in situations when the other parent needs someone to care for our child. We have agreed that if the parent needs care for ____ or more hours: _____

J. FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

We recognize our child will benefit from maintaining ties with extended family members and other people important to him/her. We agree that each parent will take primary responsibility for maintaining these relationships and to accommodate changes in the parenting schedule for special family occasions.

K. PARENTAL COOPERATION

Children need both of their parents' love and support.

1. We agree to leave our child out of adult discussions about our Parenting Plan and all other aspects of our separation/divorce/break-up.
2. We will not discuss the other parent in a negative way in the presence of or within the hearing range of our child and will not allow others to do so. We will advise others about the importance of not speaking negatively about either parent around our child.
3. **Direct Communications.** We will encourage our child to discuss his or her grievances against a parent directly with the parent in question. We will discuss our concerns directly with the other parent.
4. **Expectations and Routines.** We agree to support consistent expectations and routines for our child, which may include shared expectations regarding homework, curfew, bed-time, television or phone restrictions and chores. We agree on the following expectations:

5. **Parental Communication.** We recognize that communication between parents is very important and we agree to keep communication open by:

Telephone: _____

Joint Calendar: _____

Journal: _____

E-mail: _____

Parenting Meetings: _____

Other: _____

L. TRANSPORTATION

M. We recognize that time with the other parent is important and agree to arrange transportation as follows: _____

N. We will help our child gather the things he/she will need to take to the other parent’s home and/or school.

O. CLOTHING

We agree our child will need clothing and personal hygiene supplies in both parental homes. We agree to provide them in the following way: _____

P. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/ EXPENSES

Q. We understand there are financial responsibilities as a parent. We are aware that the parents creating a Parenting Plan are subject to the requirements of Minnesota’s Child Support guidelines. We agree to work with our attorneys or a financial mediator to determine Child Support that is consistent with Minnesota laws.

R. We have identified other child related expenses that may not be covered by Child Support. We agree to the following:

S. PHYSICAL CUSTODY

Minnesota Law requires parents to identify a joint or sole physical custody arrangement or, if appropriate, to voluntarily agree to substitute alternative terms to describe their parenting arrangement, provided that the terms used in the substitution are defined in the Parenting Plan (Minnesota Statute §518.1705, subd. 2).

The **PHYSICAL CUSTODY** of our child will be:

- () Joint Physical Custody
- () Sole Physical Custody to _____
- () Alternative Terms: We voluntarily agree to the following substitute terms:

T. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. We agree that in the event we have a disagreement about co-parenting, custody, or this parenting plan, that we will mediate our disagreement before we go back into Court. We both understand that if there is an emergency relative to custody, parenting time, co-parenting, or this parenting plan, then we may proceed directly to Court.

2. We will agree on a single mediator. If we cannot agree, then we will place five mediator names in a hat and pick one name. If we cannot abide by this provision in selecting a mediator, then we can submit five names to the Court and let the Court decide.

3. We understand and agree that we will each pay one-half of the cost of the mediation.

This document is our mutually agreed upon parenting plan.

Signatures:

Dated: _____, 20_____

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature