

PARENTING PLAN CHECKLIST

The following is a checklist of matters you might want to consider as you construct your parenting plan. It is unlikely that all points will be relevant to your particular circumstances and you may have other concerns not listed.

1 Living arrangements (short term / long term)

- ◇ How much time should each child spend with his/her mum and dad?
 - How structured and how flexible should these arrangements be?
 - If changes are needed how much notice is required?
- ◇ How will we organise holidays (ours and theirs)?

2 Special Days

What arrangements will we make for “special” days?

- ◇ Christmas
- ◇ parents’ birthdays
- ◇ children’s birthdays
- ◇ other important days in our family

3 Maintaining Contact

- ◇ Do we need to discuss how the children will maintain contact with each of us when living with the other (eg. phone calls, letters)?

4 Other family members

- ◇ Do we need to discuss how the children will maintain their relationship with other extended family members (eg grandparents, uncles and aunts etc)?

5 Children’s Activities

- ◇ How can we facilitate the continued participation of our children in their cultural and sporting activities?

6 Transportation

- ◇ How will the children move between houses and their activities?

7 Education (short term / long term)

- ◇ What are our children’s present and future educational needs?
- ◇ What type of school would we wish them to attend?
- ◇ How much will each of us be involved in school activities?
- ◇ Will we each receive information from the school?
- ◇ How will homework be managed?

- 8 **Financial support for the children (short term / long term)**
- ◇ How will the day-to-day and periodic costs be shared?
 - On what basis will we decide these figures?
 - ◇ Will the Child Support Agency Assessment be taken into account?
 - How and when will payments be made?
 - ◇ How will miscellaneous educational costs be met (eg camps, uniforms etc)?
 - ◇ How will we meet health care costs (health insurance, dental, prescriptions etc.)?
 - ◇ How will pocket money be handled?
 - ◇ Will CPI increases be taken into account?
 - ◇ How will unexpected costs be met?
- 9 **Housekeeping**
- ◇ Will we share responsibility for washing clothes?
 - ◇ How and by whom will they be fed during the week?
 - ◇ Will any of the children's belongings be shared between households?
 - ◇ Will we share in the purchase of presents?
 - ◇ Are there any other practical issues?
- 10 **Parenting Decisions**
- ◇ What parenting decisions do we feel require joint consultation?
 - ◇ How will we discuss these decisions and if we disagree how will we resolve our differences (eg return to mediation)?
 - ◇ Do we need to set up regular meetings to discuss parenting matters?
 - ◇ Do we need to discuss how we will communicate about parenting matters?
 - ◇ Should we include our children in these discussions?
 - ◇ Do we need to discuss how we talk to the children about the other parent?
 - ◇ Do we need to review this plan and if so how will we go about that?
- 11 **In case of our deaths**
- ◇ Do we need to discuss what our wishes are for the continued nurturing of our children?
 - ◇ Do we need to change our wills?
- 12 **Other matters**
- Are there any other matters we need to discuss that will benefit our children?
- ◇ religious
 - ◇ special health needs
 - ◇ emergency procedures
 - ◇ important values and principles