

BUILDING A LASTING AGREEMENT

Please Print Your Full Name: _____

It is important that your child has a relationship with each of you. Parents are generally in a position to know what arrangements are best for their child. You know your child's interests, strengths, weaknesses, and how they deal with change. Parents should strive toward working cooperatively with each other. By working together, your child will feel loved, cared for, and secure. When you focus on meeting your child's needs, you pave the way for a successful co-parenting relationship. How are you going to work with the other parent to plan for your child's future? Please consider what you believe would be best for your child for the following areas.

LEGAL CUSTODY: This refers to major decision making. Major decisions include but are not limited to: consent for non-emergency medical care, dental care, optical care, mental health care; public vs. private school; religion; consent to marry, to enter the armed forces, or to obtain a driver's license. There are 3 types of legal custody:

Joint Legal Custody: Both parents share the major decision making responsibility concerning their child. Neither parent's legal rights are greater than the other's.

Sole Legal Custody: One parent has the major decision making responsibility concerning the child. That parent does not have to take the other parent's opinion into consideration when making decisions.

Combination of Joint and Sole Legal Custody: In some areas of decision making both parents have equal legal rights, and in other areas, a designated parent has the legal right to make sole decisions.

How would you like to handle the following custody decisions?

Medical Care: who makes the decisions, who takes the child to the appointments, how is information shared with the other parent? _____

Dental Care: who makes the decisions, who takes the child to the appointments, how is information shared with the other parent? _____

Mental Health Care: who makes the decisions, who takes the child to the appointments, how is information shared with the other parent? _____

School: which school district is he/she going to attend (public or private), how is information going to be shared? _____

Religion: _____

Extracurricular/School Activities: which activities is the child involved in, who signs the child up, how is information shared, whose contact information is provided? _____

Childcare-who is the provider, who is allowed to pick the child up? _____

COMMUNICATION:

Parent-Parent: How will you and the other parent communicate regarding your child (text messaging, email, in person, phone calls, video chat, co-parenting website), what will you communicate about, how often, response time, respect guidelines? _____

Parent-Child: How will the child communicate with the non-placement parent (phone, text messaging, video chat, email), how often, do parents agree to not make disparaging remarks in front of the child? _____

TRANSPORTATION/EXCHANGES: How would you like to handle this issue? Do you exchange at your homes, public location, a half-way point? Does one parent always drop off, or pick up? Who can be present for the exchange, are there respect guidelines? _____

PERIODS OF PHYSICAL PLACEMENT: This refers to the timeframe when a parent is responsible for providing physical care for the child. How would you like to handle parenting time? When are you and the other parent available, what is your child's age, what are his/her needs? Please remember, it is typically best for a child to be with his/her parent instead of extended family, significant others, stepparents or child care providers.

School year placement-which days will you exchange on, what will be the exchange times, do you need guidelines for sick days/snow days? _____

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

Summer placement-which days will you exchange on, what will be the exchange time? _____

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

HOLIDAYS/SPECIAL OCCASIONS PLACEMENT: Please consider if you would you like to split the day, alternate the holiday every other year, one parent has the holiday yearly, or follow the regular placement schedule? If you would like guaranteed holiday placement, when would you like that time to be, what would be the exchange day(s), what time would the exchange occur at? These are a few of the more typical holidays parents work out a schedule for:

Easter: _____
Mother's/Father's Day: _____
Memorial Day Weekend: _____
4th of July: _____
Labor Day Weekend: _____
Halloween/Trick-or-Treat: _____

Thanksgiving: _____
Christmas Eve: _____
Christmas Day: _____
Birthdays: _____
Spring Break: _____
Winter Break: _____

VACATION PLACEMENT: How would you like to handle vacation placement time with your child? Are you both entitled to vacation placement or do you need to mutually agree? What would be a reasonable amount of vacation for each parent per year (number of vacations and length of a vacation)? How much notice would you provide the other parent for vacation placement? Can you take vacation on the other parent's regular placement weekend? What is the maximum number of days a parent may go without placement due to vacation placement? Do you need to provide the other parent details about the vacation, such as, destination, mode of transportation, lodging, flight information? _____