

PARENTING PLAN

OPTION 1:

This Parenting Plan Agreement is entered into by and between Petitioner * * * **(Father/Mother)** and Respondent *** **(Father/Mother)**. The parties have **[no.] child/ren** to which this Agreement applies, * * * (the **Child/ren**).

OPTION 2:

This Parenting Plan applies to Petitioner * * * **(Father/Mother)**, Respondent *** **(Father/Mother)**, and their **child/ren**, * * * (the **Child/ren**).

1. CUSTODY.

The parties agree that joint legal custody **[and shared physical custody of their minor children, with each party having approximately equal parenting time with the Child/ren pursuant to this Agreement]** is appropriate. It is the intention of the parties in agreeing to joint legal custody that each of them shall have an active role in providing a sound moral, social, economic, and educational environment for the **Child/ren**.

Father and Mother shall make their best efforts to cooperate in making their future plans consistent with the best interest of the **Child/ren** and in amicably resolving disputes as they may arise. Each parent shall cooperate with the other to maintain frequent and continuing contact between the **Child/ren** and the other parent.

2. RELIGIOUS TRAINING.

Both parents shall have input as to the **Child/ren's** religious training.

3. EDUCATION.

The parties shall confer regarding all issues involving the **Child/ren's [daycare and]** education. In addition, the parties shall confer and agree before changing the **Child/ren's** present **[daycare,]** school placement, or school district.

4. MEDICAL, DENTAL, MENTAL HEALTH, AND VISION CARE.

The parties shall confer as to the **Child/ren's** health care. Both parents shall cooperate in ensuring that the **Child/ren receive/s his/her/their** routine medical care, including, but not limited to, reasonable routine medical and dental checkups, counseling, and other health care services. The parties shall share the **Child/ren's** medical and prescription records. Each party shall cooperate in providing the **Child/ren** with any health care treatment **he/she requires/they require**, including the dispensing of prescription medicine to the **Child while he/she is/ Children while they are** in the care of each respective parent.

5. PARENTING PLAN AND RESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE.

The parents are encouraged to agree on the implementation of **[their shared physical custody arrangement and on]** a residential schedule for the **Child/ren** as is appropriate, taking into account **his/her/their** regular school, athletic, religious, and recreational activities. Except as set forth in this Parenting Plan, or as otherwise agreed by the parties, the **Child/ren** shall reside with **Mother/Father**.

Mother/Father shall have parenting time with the **Child/ren** as the parties agree. If and only if the parties are unable to agree on parenting time issues, then the following *default parenting time schedule* shall apply.

A. Weekly Parenting Time.

(1) Weekend parenting time.

Father/Mother shall have parenting time with the **Child/ren** on alternating weekends from 6:00 p.m. on Friday until **OPTION 1**: the following Sunday at 6:00 p.m. **OPTION 2**: the following Monday when school resumes, or if school is not in session, on Monday at or before 9:00 a.m.

(2) **Mid-week parenting time.**

Father/Mother shall have mid-week parenting time on * * * from 6:00 p.m. until * * * **OPTION**: school resumes, or if school is not in session, at or before 9:00 a.m.

(3) **[Friday and] Monday holidays and in-service days.**

During the school year, if the Monday following **Father's/Mother's** alternating weekend parenting time is a school or legal holiday, or school in service day, **Father's/Mother's** parenting time shall end on Monday at 6:00 p.m. **OPTION**: During the school year, if the Friday before **Father's/Mother's** alternating weekend parenting time is a school or legal holiday, or school in service day, **Father's/Mother's** parenting time shall begin on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

(4) **Limitation on Consecutive Weekends.**

OPTION: Notwithstanding any other provisions of this parenting plan, neither parent shall have parenting time with the **Child/Children** for three consecutive weekends **[OPTION]**: except for a parent's summer vacation parenting time, as set forth below]. As an illustration, if **Father/Mother** has the **Child/Children** for two consecutive weekends as a result of **his/her** alternating weekend parenting time and an adjacent holiday, the next weekend shall be awarded to **Mother/Father** to resume the alternating weekend schedule.

B. **Summer Vacation Parenting Time.**

Each parent shall have the right to have parenting time with the **Child/ren** for up to * * * * uninterrupted **days/weeks** during the summer of each year in which the other parent's parenting time need not be honored. Summer vacation parenting time may include, but shall not be appended to regular weekend parenting time.

Father shall have priority in selecting summer vacation parenting time in even numbered years. Mother shall have priority in selecting summer vacation parenting time in odd numbered years.

The parent having first choice of summer vacation parenting time shall notify the other parent in writing on or before * * * * of each year of the dates he or she has selected for summer vacation parenting time with the **Child/ren**. Within 14 days thereafter, the other parent shall provide written notice of the dates selected for his or her summer vacation parenting time.

Once designated, changes in the summer vacation parenting time schedule shall not be allowed, except by agreement of both parties. Failure of either party to make a timely designation of summer parenting time shall not result in forfeiture of parenting time rights, but will result in the other parent's scheduled time taking priority if a conflict exists over the summer vacation parenting time.

In planning vacations with the **Child/ren**, each parent shall take into consideration the **Child/ren's** interests in participating in camps and activities and shall be sensitive to **his/her schedule/their schedules** and flexible to ensure the **Child/ren's** participation in those activities. Neither parent shall enroll or schedule the **Child/any of**

the Children in any such camp or activity without first making certain that the other parent is not planning a vacation with the **Child/ren** at that time.

OPTION: Summer vacation parenting time shall have priority over all other parenting time in this parenting plan.

C. **Holiday Parenting Time.**

(1) **School Spring Break.**

Mother shall have parenting time with the **Child/ren** during the school spring break in odd numbered years and Father shall have parenting time in even numbered years, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the day school adjourns for the school spring break and ending **OPTION 1:** at 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday before school resumes.

OPTION 2: the following Monday when school resumes.

OPTION 3 so that neither party gets two weekends in spring break:

If spring break begins on **Father's/Mother's** regular alternating weekend, **his/her** spring break parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on the day school adjourns for spring break and shall end the following Friday at 6:00 p.m. If spring break does not begin on **Father's/Mother's** regular alternating weekend, **his/her** spring break parenting time shall begin at 9:00 a.m. on the Monday after school adjourns for spring break and shall end **OPTION A:** at 6:00 p.m. on the following Sunday before school resumes. **OPTION B:** the following Monday when school resumes.

If spring break begins on **Father's/Mother's** regular alternating weekend, **Mother's/Father's** spring break parenting time shall begin at 9:00 a.m. on the Monday after day school adjourns for spring break and shall end the following Monday when school resumes. If spring break does not begin on **Father's/Mother's** regular

alternating weekend, **Mother's/Father's** spring break parenting time shall begin after school adjourns and shall end the following Friday at 6:00 p.m.

(2) **Easter.**

Father/Mother shall have parenting time in odd numbered years and **Mother/Father** shall have parenting time in even numbered years, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and ending **OPTION 1:** on Easter Sunday at 6:00 p.m. **OPTION 2:** the following Monday when school resumes.

(3) **Memorial Day.**

Father shall have parenting time in odd numbered years and Mother shall have parenting time in even numbered years, beginning on the Friday before Memorial Day at 6:00 p.m. and ending **OPTION 1:** on Memorial Day at 6:00 p.m. **OPTION 2:** the following Tuesday when school resumes.

(4) **Fourth of July.**

In even numbered years, Father shall have parenting time on the Fourth of July. In odd numbered years, Mother shall have parenting time on the Fourth of July.

If this holiday does not fall on Friday or Saturday, parenting time shall begin at 9:00 a.m. on July 4 and shall end at 9:00 a.m. on July 5. If this holiday falls on a Friday or Saturday parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the Fourth of July and shall end on the following Sunday at 6:00 p.m. **[NOTE: if this section is used, include language about priority of vacation time and 4th of July]**

(5) **Labor Day.**

Mother shall have parenting time in odd numbered years and Father shall have parenting time in even numbered years, beginning on the Friday before Labor Day at 6:00 p.m. and ending **OPTION 1:** on Labor Day at 6:00 p.m. **OPTION 2:** the following Tuesday when school resumes, or, if school does not resume on Tuesday, at 9:00 a.m.

(6) **Thanksgiving.**

Father shall have parenting time in odd numbered years and Mother shall have parenting time in even numbered years. Thanksgiving parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and shall end **OPTION 1:** on the following Sunday at 6:00 p.m. **OPTION 2:** the following Monday when school resumes.

(7) **Winter Holiday.**

In even numbered years, Father shall have parenting time beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the day school adjourns for the winter holiday and ending at noon on Christmas Day. Mother shall have winter holiday parenting time from noon on Christmas Day until **OPTION 1:** 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday before school resumes after the winter holiday. **OPTION 2:** the Monday when school resumes after the winter holiday.

In odd numbered years, Mother shall have winter holiday parenting time beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the day that school adjourns for the winter holiday and ending at noon on Christmas Day. Father shall have winter holiday parenting time from noon on Christmas Day until **OPTION 1:** 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday before school resumes after the winter holiday. **OPTION 2:** the Monday when school resumes after the winter holiday.

OPTION A: The parties shall equally divide the winter holiday. In even numbered years, Father shall have parenting time beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the day school adjourns for the winter holiday and ending at noon on Christmas Day. Mother shall have winter holiday parenting time from noon on Christmas Day for the same number of overnights as Father had the children for the first segment of the winter holiday. The remaining segment of the winter holiday shall be equally divided between the parties, with Mother receiving the first one-half of the remaining overnights and Father having the remaining overnights until **OPTION 1:** 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday before school resumes after the winter holiday. **OPTION 2:** the Monday when school resumes after the winter holiday. This schedule shall reverse in odd numbered years.

OPTION B: The parties shall equally divide the winter holiday. In even numbered years, Father shall have parenting time beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the day school adjourns for the winter holiday and ending at noon on the midpoint of the winter holiday. Mother shall have winter holiday parenting time from noon on the midpoint of the winter holiday until **OPTION 1:** 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday before school resumes after the winter holiday. **OPTION 2:** the Monday when school resumes after the winter holiday. For the purposes of this section, the “midpoint” of the winter holiday is defined as 12 noon on the day on which the same number of days have passed since the day school adjourned for the winter holiday as there are days remaining before school resumes.

(8) Other Legal Holidays. NOTE: THIS SECTION SHOULD NOT BE USED IF THE PARAGRAPH RE MONDAY HOLIDAYS, ABOVE, IS USED

Parenting time on Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, and any other legal holiday not specifically set forth above shall alternate between the Father and

Mother beginning with Mother having parenting time on Martin Luther King Day, with each of the above holidays alternating between the parties thereafter.

Parenting time for President's Day and Martin Luther King Day shall begin on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and shall end when school resumes after the holiday.

(9) **Mother's Day.**

Mother shall have parenting time with the **Child/Children** every Mother's Day weekend. Parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on the Friday before Mother's Day and shall end **OPTION 1:** at 6:00 p.m. on the following Sunday before school resumes. **OPTION 2:** the following Monday when school resumes.

(10) **Mother's Birthday.**

Mother shall have parenting time with the **Child/ren** on her birthday. If Mother's birthday does not fall on Saturday or Sunday, her parenting time shall begin at * * * and shall end at 8:00 p.m. If Mother's birthday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on the Friday before Mother's birthday and shall end **OPTION 1:** at 6:00 p.m. on the following Sunday before school resumes. **OPTION 2:** the following Monday when school resumes.

(11) **Father's Day.**

Father shall have parenting time with the **Child/ren** every Father's Day weekend. Parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on the Friday before Father's Day and shall end **OPTION 1:** on the following Sunday at 6:00 p.m. **OPTION 2:** the following Monday at 9:00 a.m.

(12) **Father's Birthday.**

Father shall have parenting time with the **Child/ren** on his birthday. If Father's birthday does not fall on Saturday or Sunday, parenting time shall begin at * * * and end at 8:00 p.m. If Father's birthday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on the Friday before his birthday and shall end **OPTION 1:** at 6:00 p.m. on the following Sunday before school resumes. **OPTION 2:** the following Monday when school resumes.

(13) **Child/ren's birthday/s.**

In odd numbered years, if * * *'s birthday is on a weekday and **he/she** is attending preschool, kindergarten, elementary, middle, or high school, then **Father/Mother** shall have parenting time from the end of the school day until 8:00 p.m. If * * *'s birthday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, then **Father/Mother** shall have parenting time with * * * from Friday at 6:00 p.m. until **OPTION 1:** 6:00 p.m. on the following Sunday before school resumes. **OPTION 2:** the following Monday when school resumes. This schedule shall reverse as to the parties in even numbered years.

REPEAT FOR EACH CHILD

6. **OTHER RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR PARENTING TIME.**

A. **Passports.**

Either party may obtain a passport for the **Child/any of the Children**, provided that **he/she/they** may travel out of the country only if each parent approves of the trip itinerary and dates of the trip, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

B. **Consideration of Children's Activities.**

When the **Child/ren become/s [a] teenager/s**, each parent shall take into consideration **his/her/their** employment and age appropriate activities in adhering to this parenting time schedule.

C. **Transportation.**

Pick up and delivery of the **Child/ren** to and from all parenting time shall be prompt so that all parties may make plans accordingly. In no event shall the pick up or delivery be more than fifteen minutes before or fifteen minutes after the designated starting and ending times, respectively, for the parenting time. **OPTION 1: Father/Mother** shall transport the **Child/ren** to and from **Mother's/Father's** residence or at such other location as the parties may agree. **OPTION 2:** Each party shall alternate in transporting the **Child/ren** to and from the other party's residence or at such other location as the parties may agree. **OPTION 3:** The parent who is receiving the **Child/ren** for parenting time shall be responsible for transporting the **Child/ren**. For example, at the conclusion of **Father's/Mother's** parenting time, **Mother/Father** shall be responsible for picking up the **Child/ren**. **Father/Mother** shall be responsible for picking up the **Child/ren** at the beginning of **his/her** parenting time.

D. **Planning.**

(1) **Mother/Father** shall have the **Child/ren** fed and ready on time for **Father's/Mother's** parenting time with sufficient and proper clothing, sporting, and recreational equipment packed and ready for **Father's/Mother's** parenting time.

(2) **Father/Mother** shall have the **Child/ren** fed before returning **him/her/them** from the parenting time and shall return any sporting and recreational equipment, and shall return clothing washed and ready to be worn.

(3) **Father/Mother** shall notify **Mother/Father** at least 24 hours in advance if **he/she** is unable to exercise his parenting time with the **Child/ren**.

E. Illness of Child.

(1) A child's illness shall not be grounds to cancel parenting time unless the illness is of a substantial nature and a physician or other health care provider recommends that parenting time not occur. The parent whose parenting time is cancelled on account of illness of the child is entitled to promptly receive from the other parent written documentation of such recommendation. In the event a child is ill as defined in this paragraph and is unable to be with the parent who is scheduled to have parenting time, makeup parenting time shall be allowed. All make up parenting time shall be exercised within 30 days of the missed parenting time.

(2) If either party fails to exercise his or her parenting time because of illness or any other reason, there shall be no makeup parenting time, unless Father and Mother otherwise agree.

F. Personal Plans.

(1) To the extent practicable, the parties shall exercise parenting time so as to avoid disrupting the **Child/ren's** regular school, athletic, religious, and recreational activities.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this parenting plan, personal plans of Mother, Father, or the **Child/ren's** school activities, religious activities, or other considerations shall not be reasons for failing to follow this residential schedule.

(3) Both parties shall be sensitive to the **Child/ren's** schedule and flexible enough to ensure **his/her/their** participation in reasonable ongoing activities.

G. **Contact Information.**

Each party shall provide addresses and contact telephone numbers to the other party. In the event either party moves or changes his or her telephone number, that party shall notify the other party in writing of the new address and telephone number, as the case may be, within 48 hours of such change. Each party shall immediately notify the other party of any emergencies or substantial changes in the health of the **Child/ren**.

H. **Travel Information.**

Each parent shall provide to the other an itinerary of any trip and contact information, including telephone numbers, at least 14 days before traveling with the **Child/Children** more than sixty miles from that parent's residence.

7. **OTHER COMMUNICATION WITH THE CHILD/REN.**

Each parent shall have the right to correspond with the **Child/ren** by regular mail, facsimile, email, and to telephone **him/her/them** with reasonable frequency during reasonable hours without interference or monitoring by the other party or anyone else in any way. **OPTION:** In addition, at **Father's/Mother's** election, **he/she** may at **his/her** expense purchase and have installed a computer with a video camera for the **Child/ren's** use for video mail and face to face video communication. In the event **Father/Mother** elects to do so, **he/she** shall pay for the monthly internet fees necessary for the video camera conferencing. **Father/Mother** shall have the unlimited right to contact the **Child/ren** through that medium without interference or monitoring by the other party or anyone else in any way. **Father/Mother** shall take into account the **Child/ren's** school and activities schedule in using that medium of communication. The **Child/ren** shall in no

event be available for such video communication less than two evenings per week and one weekend day or evening per week.

8. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS.

The parties shall communicate directly with each other as to all issues regarding the **Child/ren** and all post-divorce issues. The **Child/ren** shall not be involved in the above-described communications in any way whatsoever. In addition, each parent shall have a continuing responsibility to immediately notify the other parent of a child's serious illness or injury.

OPTION IF JOINT CUSTODY. Each party shall consult with the other in all major non-emergency matters and the **Child/ren's** religious upbringing, educational programs, discipline, counseling, social environment, and health and dental care.

9. AFFECTION AND RESPECT.

Each party shall exert every effort to maintain free access and unhampered contact between the **Child/ren** and other party and to foster affection and respect between the **Child/ren** and the other party. Neither party shall do anything that would estrange the **Child/ren** from the other party, that would injure the opinion of the **Child/ren** as to the other, or that would impair the natural development of the **Child/ren's** love and respect for each parent. Further, each party is restrained and enjoined from making any comments about the other party in the **Child/ren's** presence that in any other way diminishes the love, respect, and affection that the **Child/ren has/have** for either party.

10. OTHER RIGHTS OF EACH PARENT.

Each party shall have the following additional rights:

- A. To inspect and receive school records and to consult with school staff concerning the **Child/ren's** welfare and education;
- B. To inspect and receive governmental agency and law enforcement records concerning the **Child/ren**;
- C. To consult with any person who may provide care or treatment for the **Child/ren** and to inspect and receive the **Child/ren's** medical, dental, and psychological records;
- D. To authorize emergency medical, dental, psychological, psychiatric, or other health care for the **Child/ren** if the other is, for practical purposes, unavailable;
- E. To apply to be the **Child/ren's** conservator, guardian ad litem, or both; and
- F. To be notified in case of a child's serious illness.

11. **NOTICE OF MOVE.**

Neither party shall move more than 60 miles from his or her residence without giving the other party and the court at least 60 days written notice of the move. Such a move will be an unanticipated, substantial change of circumstances sufficient to bring the issue of custody and parenting time before the court.

12. **PARENT UNAVAILABLE.**

The parties agree that if either one of them is unable to care for the **Child/ren** during extended periods when the **Child/ren is/are** scheduled to be with that parent, he or she shall first contact the other parent in order to provide that parent the first opportunity to care for the **Child/ren**. An extended period is defined as an overnight [OPTION: 24 hours] or longer.

13. **MEDIATION.**

The parties shall make every effort to cooperatively resolve any disagreement they may have concerning the **Child/ren**. If they cannot resolve such disagreement, they shall present the disagreement for mediation to a mutually agreed-upon counselor, lawyer, or other professional person skilled in resolving the problems of children and their families. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, each shall select one mediator. The sole function of the mediators selected by the parties shall be to select a third mediator to address the dispute.

There shall be a minimum of two mediation sessions. The parties shall equally divide all costs of the mediation. If the disagreement is not resolved in mediation, then either party may file the appropriate motion in court to resolve the disagreement.

14. ORDER APPOINTING PARENTING COORDINATOR.

Dr. *** shall serve as the parenting coordinator for the parties. The parenting coordinator's duties shall be as set forth below:

- A. Gathering information as to parenting issues.
- B. Monitoring compliance by each party as to this parenting plan.
- C. Providing the parents, their attorneys, if any, and the court with recommendations for new or modified parenting time provisions.
- D. Providing mediation and conflict management services.
- E. Assisting the parties in avoiding litigation and resolving disputes.
- F. Assisting the parties in achieving better communication.

The retainer and hourly costs associated with the coordinator shall be divided

OPTION 1: pro rata to the parties' respective income as set forth in the attached Exhibit

***** OPTION 2** equally, provided that neither party shall be obligated to pay for or

contribute to the costs of the other party's individual meetings with the coordinator except for each party's initial individual consultations. The coordinator shall have no obligation to perform services under this order in the absence of the payment of **his/her** retainer and of **his/her** hourly costs.

The parties shall utilize the coordinator's services before filing any court action associated with enforcing or modifying the provisions of this parenting plan. This order appointing the coordinator shall remain in effect until terminated or modified by further court order, provided that the coordinator may resign upon written notice to the parties. Each party shall sign all releases requested by the coordinator, including, but not limited to, releases authorizing all therapists, attorneys, and previous or current evaluators to release information directly to the coordinator.

To the extent the coordinator requests a more detailed order, the court shall retain jurisdiction to enter such an order and to appoint an alternate coordinator. In addition, should the coordinator resign, the court shall retain jurisdiction to appoint a replacement coordinator upon motion of either party.

The appointment of the coordinator shall continue until further order of the court.

[IT IS SO AGREED AND STIPULATED. (add signature lines)]