

I. Framing

- ☐ Problem: Massachusetts does not currently have a parenting time agreement form, while other New England states do. These types of agreements help the parents work together to create a schedule that encourages both parents to develop a loving and close relationship with the children. These agreements help to mitigate litigation and strained relationships between the parents. The creation of this form attempts to create a form that can be used for parents to agree on a parenting plan that works for them and then present this plan to the Court for approval.
- ☐ Users/ Stakeholders: The users of this form will be primarily pro se litigants, but the goal is for legal aid offices and possibly clients, who are represented by attorneys to use the form as well.

II. Research

- ☐ Existing Solutions: There are currently no uniform forms that outline parenting time in Massachusetts. Other New England states such as New Hampshire and Connecticut have such forms, and these provided the basis for the creation of this form.
- ☐ I consulted with Suffolk Law's Family Advocacy Clinic for language that is typical in these types of agreements.

III. Ideation Prototyping

- ☐ Options: Do nothing and let the status quo of going to court and through the probation process, where parents may not be satisfied with the results, and the lengthy court process.

- ☐ Create a form that stands alone for parenting time agreements in Massachusetts.

Not everyone can get into the courthouse to pick up the forms, and sometimes the lines to collect the forms are extremely long, which can be discouraging.

- ☐ Automate the stand alone form to reach more users and streamline the process.

IV. User Testing

- ☐ Potential Real World User: Potential real world users are those who have children and are separating from their significant others. I tested this by running a demo.

V. Refinement

- ☐ There have been 18 template drafts and three drafts have made it into the playground of Doccasemble. Many of the python codes have been manipulated to better serve the purpose.

VI. Intro Pitch

In Class Exercise.

VII. Complexity/Robustness

- ☐ This product used document automation.

VIII. Impact Efficiencies

- ☐ I believe that once perfected, this project will expand the reach of a single practitioner by more than 100, as pro se litigant parents will not need a lawyer to complete this process. It does not currently decrease the amount of time expended on the automated task by more than 50% however.

IX. Fit/Completeness

I believe that users would find the solution is a great improvement over the status quo.

This project produces a viable output, but it is not perfected and needs more work.

X. Documentation

The template is clearly written and accessible for most users, while maintaining the formality of court. Terms are referred to and explained such as legal custody and physical custody.

XI. Real World Viability

- ☐ Steps needed before real- world use: Refining the interview questions and python coding, as well as adding checkboxes or drop down options.
- ☐ More detailed instructions on the process (probation mediation and then presentation to the family and probate court judge).

XII. Sustainability

- ☐ Plan for continued operation, updates, and maintenance: The template and thus coding will change as the legal needs of the clients change and as the law evolves; therefore, when there is a change this form should be updated to reflect the change in law.