



PARENTING PLAN CONSULTANT AGREEMENT

Bill J. Fyfe, Ed.D.

A parenting plan consultant assists both parents in building a parenting plan which is beneficial to their children. Each parenting plan consists of a set parenting time between each parent and child, specification of parental decision-making, and a mechanism for resolving disputes in the future. By signing this agreement, you are entering into a voluntary contract with me for this service. I cannot make binding decisions for you in this role. My primary responsibility will be to help you finalize a parenting plan which can be used in your divorce decree or replace the current plan delineated in your final orders. I can also assist you in developing a time line for making your parenting plan operational. Comprehensive parenting plans often specify a mechanism for arriving at solutions to unanticipated problems in the future.

Our goal is to develop a parenting plan with specific delineation of parent responsibility. You will be asked to fill out a developmental questionnaire concerning each child and participate in individual and joint parent interviews in order to give me a proper understanding of your family. Below is a list of the specific arenas we will delineate in your parenting plan:

1. **Residential Time and Parent Role Definition** – Frequently parenting disputes center around where a child(ren) is going to live and how much time they will be with each parent. This decision should be based on the needs of the child(ren) and what makes the most sense given family specific history, parental availability (usually related to work commitments and schedule), geographic considerations and the child's developmental need for structure and routine. Contact between each child and parent, as well as specific drop offs and pick-ups, are best specified. Other considerations related to time sharing include: overnights, rescheduling missed parenting time, problems with lateness at drop offs or pick ups, and phasing in developmentally based increases in parenting time for the non-residential parent.
2. **Decision-Making About Health, Education, and Other Child Welfare Issues** – Under Colorado's Parental Responsibility Law, decision-making can be shared as determined by the parent's wishes. Parents can specify who makes final decisions around religion, medical care, educational, and extracurricular activities.

3. **Dispute Resolution Mechanism** – Parents can spell out a mechanism for the resolution of future disputes. There are several models to choose from, which can be tailored to your situation. Parents may want to consider the use of a Parenting Coordinator (PC)¹ to assist in managing parent conflict. Parents may also specify participating in mediation prior to court intervention as part of their agreement.

4. **Communication between the parents** – It is important to consider whether or not you wish to delineate a regulated communication plan. This decision should be based on an honest assessment of each partner’s ability to communicate and your joint ability to reach agreements. Under a specified plan, several options are available:
 - A. In a parenting logbook each parent is asked to write a brief summary paragraph concerning their contact with each child. The logbook is exchanged at each transition.
 - B. Telephone call policy for parents and child.
 - C. Development of an “Adult Information Only” communication mechanism.
 - D. Periodic parenting conferences – with or without the participation of a PC.
 - E. Schedule changes – how these will be handled.
 - F. Clarification of stepparent or significant other involvement now and in the future.

5. **Vacation, Summertime, and Holiday Schedules** – Given that vacation and summertime schedules for many children vary with age, a plan can be put into place which will specify parenting time between child(ren) and parent during the summer and for vacation. Parents also share parenting time on holidays. Most plans have Christmas or Hanukkah, other significant religious holidays, spring break and/or Thanksgiving specifications. Other holidays may or may not be specified in the plan as opportunities for transition. Of note: Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, birthdays, special family occasions, and out of state travel are considered under this section.

6. **Academic, extra-curricular and religious involvement** –A mechanism for ongoing parent input can be developed in regards to parent involvement in school and extra-curricular activities. These activities may also involve religious training or church attendance and how the family will handle these activities over time.

¹ Under C.R.S. 12-10-128.1 and/or under C.R.S. 14-10-128.3 a Parenting Coordinator (PC) assists parents in containing conflict, resolving differences and improving communication. The PC can also have decision-maker (DM) authority. Please read the separate PC agreement for further information.

7. **Medical/professional involvements** – A clear understanding of how medical emergencies are to be handled should be stated in a parenting plan. It is important to specify prior notification procedures for check-ups and regular medical or other professional appointments. This would include mental health appointments should they be needed now or in the future.
8. **Removal Issues** – An unexpected but potentially destabilizing issue is that of significant relocation; local moves as well as out of state relocation. Thought should be given as to how this issue can be handled in the future with due consideration of the legal and psychological issues related to removal.
9. **Voice of the Children** – As children grow, their input and opinions become more informed and should be considered. Certainly by adolescence, their voice in a parenting plan should be allowed. Your plan can allow for such changes to take place.
10. **Court Proceeding Waiver** – Because I will serve in a consulting role, I will not participate in court related proceedings where I am asked for an expert opinion. By signing this agreement you waive any and all rights to access to my file and agree not to subpoena me.

There are other items which may be part of the parenting plan agreement. Such issues as child care, make up parenting time, children's clothing, toys and possessions, changes in religious belief systems, parent dating relationships, grandparent or extended family contact, future obligations for college and/or extracurricular activities and consideration of household and family rules, can be delineated as part of the parenting agreement.

NOTE: Emergency or after services are not offered under this agreement.

**PARENTING PLAN CONSULTANT
CONTRACT FOR SERVICE**

I have reviewed the Columbine Counseling Center **Parenting Plan Consultant Agreement**, the **Client's Rights** (mandatory disclosure) document, **HIPPA Notice of Privacy Practices**, **Center Policy as Regards the Release of Client Files Policy** and **To Clients** statement. I agree to adhere to the policies and procedures set forth in these documents.

I agree to pay my portion of the cost associated with the Parenting Plan Consultant services. I further understand that I am responsible for \$_____ advance payment for services. I understand that the initial fee is non-refundable. I understand that I will pay _____% on any additional fees when billed within ten (10) days of receipt of a bill. Services will be halted until if payments are not made in a timely fashion. Late payment will be assessed at 1 % per month charge. I understand the hourly rate of this service to be \$_____. Any additional agreement concerning finances will be made in writing.

Bill J. Fyfe, Ed.D.
Psychologist

Date

Mother (or Guardian)

Date

Father (or Guardian)

Date