

Parenting Coordination Contract

A Parenting Coordinator becomes involved with a family when the level of discord between parents impairs their ability to parent their children effectively. Generally speaking, the court has flagged the situation as “high conflict”. In most cases, there is a court order or legal directive that outlines the work of the Parent Coordinator.

A Parent Coordinator has a range of responsibilities including:

- Creating approaches to implement a parenting plan that reduces the conflict between parents
- Monitoring compliance with the parenting plan or parenting schedule and helping resolve disputes concerning the plan or schedule or parenting issues
- Teaching communication skills to facilitate problem resolution and effective parenting
- Educating parents about principles of child development and issues involving children when their parents no longer live together
- Encouraging and maintaining communication between parents
- Writing guidelines or rules for communication between the parents and practicing those with parents
- Teaching parenting and coparenting skills as needed
- Deciding how particular elements of a parenting plan or schedule will be implemented (i.e., temporary changes to parenting schedule, holiday and vacation planning, logistics of drop off and pick up, suitability of accommodations and issues dealing with step-parents and significant others)
- Working with parents to update and revise their parenting plan and time-sharing arrangements as changes in children’s and family needs occur.

Confidentiality:

Parenting Coordination is not a confidential process. If Parenting Coordination is ordered by the court, the court may request reports about the progress or lack of progress. Furthermore, the Parent Coordinator shall be entitled to communicate with the children or any persons deemed necessary to protect the best interests of the children. Each parent agrees to sign any and all authorizations for release of information as requested by the Parenting Coordinator (i.e., attorneys, teachers, other therapists, child care workers, etc.). In addition, the Parenting Coordinator shall be given written consent to access any confidential and privileged information with regard to the parents or children such as evaluations or records. While it is the intent of parenting coordination that both parents participate together in the meetings, in the rare

circumstance that the Parenting Coordinator meets with one parent separately, that information may be shared with the other parent.

The confidentiality of communication between clients and myself, as the Parenting Coordinator, is protected by the laws and ethical standards governing the practice of psychology. As such, confidential information will not be shared outside of the professional role. It is also important that parents not share details of the parenting coordination process with the children.

Finally, recording of the sessions is strictly prohibited.

Testimony:

It is the role of the Parenting Coordinator to remain neutral to the parties involved. For this reason, it is not appropriate for the Parenting Coordinator to appear in court unless it is for the purpose of giving the court an update on progress.

Decision-Making Authority:

The Parenting Coordinator does not have any authority over matters concerning child support or substantial changes to the time-sharing of the children.

Emergency Situations:

Services provided by the Parenting Coordinator are not intended to be a crisis services and the Parenting Coordinator will not be available outside of the normal business hours (Monday – Friday). If I am not available and there is an immediate emergency, I suggest you call your primary care physician, any hospital emergency room, or 911.

Fees and Cancellation Policy:

Parenting Coordination **is not** a service billable to your insurance. The cost is \$200.00 per 50-60 minute session. Unless other arrangements are agreed upon by the Parenting Coordinator, this is a “pay as you go” policy. Cash, checks or credit cards are accepted.

All costs of collection, including but not limited to, 33% attorney/collection fees on the balance owed and all court costs will be added to your bill.

Cancellation of appointments requires a 48-hour notice in order to avoid a full fee charge for that meeting. When an appointment is scheduled for two parties to meet for parenting coordination, and one party cancels with less than 48-hour notice, that party is responsible for the fee for the missed session. The person cancelling is also responsible for contacting the other party to notify him/her of the cancellation. The fee for the missed appointment is \$100.00. This fee must be paid for either before or at the time of the next appointment.

Parenting Coordination is a positive method to resolve conflict and promote a healthier lifestyle for adults and children. While the process assists parents in developing a positive and healthy co-parenting relationship, **children are the focus of parenting coordination.**

**I HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY, UNDERSTAND THE
CONTENT, AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.**

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Signature

Date