



Co-parenting Assistance Service Agreement

Co-parenting assistance is an alternative dispute resolution process that has been agreed upon by both parties. By signing this you agree to work cooperatively with your Family Life Educator to resolve disputes and reach agreements that will result in the best interests of your children.

The Family Life Educator's role is to educate and empower parents to self-determine a parenting plan in the best interest of their children and resolve conflicts regarding implementing the parenting plan through effective communication. Agreements between parents will be encouraged in order to help you communicate more effectively, but no modifications to existing orders, judgments, or the decree will be made. Agreements made by the parties with the assistance of your Family Life Educator can and should be reduced to writing, signed by the parties and their attorneys, if any. If agreements are made that require legal processing, representing attorneys or pro se parties will process the agreements through appropriate legal procedures.

Your family life educator will facilitate:

- (1) identifying disputed issues;
- (2) reducing misunderstandings;
- (3) clarifying priorities;
- (4) exploring possibilities for problem solving;
- (5) developing methods of collaboration in parenting;
- (6) understanding parenting plans and reaching agreements about parenting issues to be included in a parenting plan and;
- (7) complying with the court's order regarding conservatorship or possession of and access to the child.
- (8) implementing parenting plans;
- (9) obtaining training regarding problem solving, conflict management, and parenting skills; and
- (10) settling disputes regarding parenting issues and reaching a proposed joint resolution or statement of intent regarding those disputes.

No subpoenas, citation, writs, or other process shall be served at a Parenting Partnerships location to a person involved in Co-parenting Assistance.

In addition, your family life educator may not:

1. Be compelled to produce work product developed in this process;
2. Be required to disclose the source of any information;
3. Submit a report into evidence
4. Testify in court.

Nothing in this agreement shall serve to release your Family Life Educator from the legal obligation to report child, elder, or disability abuse.

Critical Information

In order to begin services the following must be on file for both parents:

- a completed information form
- authorization for release of information forms
- a signed copy of this agreement

Conditions which may preclude the Family Life Educator from being effective include:

- a. Untreated serious mental illness
- b. Unmanaged substance abuse
- c. A pattern of intimidating domestic violence which is being denied by the batterer
- d. Pending accusations of abuse of a child

SERVICE AGREEMENT:

I understand my Family Life Educator will facilitate the coordination a co-parenting plan that addresses current and future issues related to raising children between two homes.

I understand this process does not involve adult's property, finances, or other issues that do not directly involve co-parenting.

I understand I may not engage my Family Life Educator in conversation without the other parent present unless specifically addressing scheduling issues related to appointments, unless specifically asked to do so by your Family Life Educator.

I understand Parenting Partnerships, Inc. Family Life Educators cannot provide counseling or therapy. In the event that counseling or therapy is recommended I agree to seek those services in addition to working with my Family Life Educator.

I agree to notify my Family Life Educator in writing within 24 hours of any changes in my contact information, legal representation, residency, or occupants of my home.

I understand my children's other parent and I may make joint parenting decisions in our children's best interests at any time without our Family Life Educator's assistance. I will notify our Family Life Educator of any significant agreements reached with my children's other parent outside of the Co-parenting Assistance process.

I understand that though I may reach agreements in our meetings, nothing is final until my attorney has an opportunity to review the agreement and file the agreement with the court.

I understand this process requires open and honest communication in order to succeed. Therefore, it is completely confidential, and all written and oral communications made during the process are privileged settlement negotiations; and, I agree that no electronic and tape recordings will be made during these meetings.

I agree not to subpoena or demand the production of any records, notes, work product or the like of my Family Life Educator in any legal or administrative proceeding concerning this dispute. To the extent that I may have a legal right to demand these documents, that right is hereby waived. If, at a later time, either party decides to subpoena your Family Life Educator, your Family Life Educator will move to quash the subpoena, based on your signature on this agreement. If you or your attorney initiates a subpoena, you agree to reimburse your Family Life Educator for whatever expenses she/he incurs in such an action.

Meetings

If a meeting must be cancelled, it must be done within 24 weekday business hours of the scheduled appointment. It is the cancelling party's responsibility to reschedule the meeting. The cancelling party will notify all participants of this change and the date and time of the rescheduled visit. If cancellation is not done within 24 weekday business hours of the scheduled meeting, the entire appointment fee will be charged to the cancelling parent. Payments for the cancelled meeting must be paid prior to the next scheduled visit. Business hours are defined as Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Telephone

I understand telephone calls to my Family Life Educator shall be conducted only during weekdays and regular business office hours. I understand that messages left for my Family Life Educator may take up to 24 weekday business hours to return, and I will not call more than once per 24 hour period unless I am calling to cancel a

previous request for a return call. This is not an emergency service. If an emergency arises, I am to call 911, child protective services, or a mental health hotline.

Financial Obligations

All payments are due at the conclusion of each meeting. Missed appointments, late notice of cancellation fees and telephone charges will be billed. Reimbursement is due upon receipt of your invoice. Checks should be made out to Parenting Partnerships, Inc. There is a \$30 returned check fee per returned check.

The amount charged for the services will be equally divided unless both parents have agreed otherwise. Both parents pay a deposit of \$300.00 to begin services. The rate for Co-parenting Assistance services is \$100.00 per hour. This includes reviewing documentation, meetings, correspondences, telephone contact, email, and collaboration with other family service providers.

I understand that Parenting Partnerships, Inc. provides family educational services, not counseling or therapy. (I recognize this and agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless Parenting Partnerships and all of their officers, directors, consultants, employees and representatives from any liability, claims or causes of action for personal injury or property damage of any kind which occurs on or off the premises, including but not limited to that which may occur as a result of facilitated agreements, use of materials or information provided by Parenting Partnerships.)

I the undersigned agree to work with:

_____ **Family Life Educator**

My signature reflects that I will abide by all conditions outlined in this document.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE READ THIS AGREEMENT FULLY AND INITIAL EACH PAGE BEFORE FAXING TO 832-217-3123

BE SURE TO PUT YOUR FAMILY LIFE EDUCATOR’S NAME ON YOUR COVER PAGE