



PARENTING PLAN CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to brainstorm for the parenting plan that will help you handle issues that may arise as your children grow. A thorough parenting plan will act as a point of reference for what steps to take when managing different situations. Listed below are questions to consider when developing your plan. You can use the second page for noting your ideas.

1. PARENTING SCHEDULE: How will your children divide time between your two homes? Will you drive the kids to each other's homes or plan to meet at another, predetermined location? How will you handle any necessary schedule changes? How far ahead of time do you and your co-parent need to propose changes? How will these changes be communicated? What about changes due to an emergency?

2. HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL DATES: How will you share time with your children over holidays, school breaks, and vacations? How will summer vacation be split between you two? Consider scheduling holiday parenting time several years into the future so that you're prepared for holidays well ahead of time.

3. TRAVEL: How far in advance do trips need to be planned? How will the children's travel expenses be paid for? Is there anyone that cannot travel with the children?

4. EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS: How will your children spend time and communicate with extended family members and friends? How far in advance do these visits need to be scheduled? Do they need to be supervised?

5. MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS: How will decisions be made about your children's health care, discipline, religion, and schooling? How far in advance do changes to these parts of their lives need to be discussed? Do you have a neutral third-party to help if you ever reach a stalemate?

6. EXPENSES: How will your children's cost of living be covered? Will you share the responsibility of every child-related cost or will you each be 100% responsible for certain categories of expenses?

7. COMMUNICATING WITH KIDS WHILE THEY'RE AWAY: When your children are with their other parent, what will be the primary method of keeping in touch? Will you have predetermined time slots for calls or video chatting? Choose the methods that work best for your family and name those in your parenting plan.

8. CO-PARENT COMMUNICATION: Do you want to have an online tool to keep all of your communication in one place? What types of information need to be conveyed and how frequently? Choose a method that suits your answers to these questions.



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Use the spaces below for brainstorming ideas for your parenting plan. You can reference the questions on page one if you need help with ideas. For more information to consider when developing your parenting plan, [go here](#).

1. PARENTING SCHEDULE

2. HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL DATES

3. TRAVEL

4. EXTENDED FAMILY & FRIENDS

5. IMPORTANT DECISIONS

6. EXPENSES

7. COMMUNICATING WITH THE KIDS

8. CO-PARENT COMMUNICATION