

# Parenting plan guide

**Author**

Northwest Justice Project

**Last Review Date**

August 19, 2024

Learn about parenting plan court orders: how to get one, what it covers, what evidence the judge considers, what happens after you have one.

## 1. Fast facts

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**Fill out forms online**

- Parenting Plan

<https://lawhelpinteractive.org/Interview/GenerateInterview/7390/engine>

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A Parenting Plan is a court order that says who has the right to spend time with and make decisions for a child. It will include:

- Which parent the children will live with most of the time (custody)
- How much time the children will spend with each parent

- Who will make major decisions about the children, including school and medical care
- How the parents will work out major disagreement about the Parenting Plan
- If there are serious safety concerns, the Parenting Plan can include restrictions (limitations) on a parent

Washington courts generally don't use the words custody and visitation. They talk about the ***residential schedule*** and ***decision-making authority*** for the children.

## How can I get a Parenting Plan?

A judge will order a Parenting Plan as part of a family law court case such as:

- Divorce
- Petition for a Parenting Plan (for unmarried parents after parentage is decided)
- Petition to Change Parenting Plan

"Judge" here refers to judges and court commissioners.

Someone who is **not** a legal parent can't get a Parenting Plan.

- If you believe you are a parent but you're not legally recognized as one, you must first establish legal parentage before getting a Parenting Plan.

- If you want custody of a child and you're not the child's parent, you may get a court order called a Residential Schedule as part of a minor guardianship case. Before 2021, this was called non-parent custody.
- If you're a relative who wants the legal right to visit with a child, you can petition the court for non-parent visitation rights.

## When do I file a Parenting Plan?

You can file a Parenting Plan form at different stages of your family law case:

- **Beginning** – with your petition or response
- **Middle** – with a motion for temporary orders
- **End** – with your final orders

You can fill out a Parenting Plan form as a proposal, an order, or an agreement.

- **Proposal** – A Parenting Plan proposal tells the other parent and the judge what you want.
- **Order** – A judge signs a Parenting Plan order after making a decision at a temporary orders hearing or trial. If the judge has already made a decision, you must fill out the Parenting Plan order to show the judge's actual decision, even if it is different from what you asked for.
- **Agreement** – If you and the other parent agree, fill out the Parenting Plan to show the agreement you made. If you both sign the Proposal and Order versions of the plan, the judge will most likely approve it.

Answer a few questions on [\*\*Get Family and Safety Forms\*\*](#) to get the right forms for your situation.

You must have a copy of your proposed Parenting Plan and related papers delivered to (served on) every other party in the case. There are different rules for serving papers to start a case , and serving papers *after* a case has started.

## **What's the difference between a temporary and a final Parenting Plan?**

Family law cases can take many months from start to finish. Temporary orders, including temporary Parenting Plans, put rules in place for the short-term while the case is in progress. The final Parenting Plan, which the judge makes to end your court case, is meant to be permanent, or at least to cover a much longer period. Because of that, it's easier to change temporary orders than it is to change final orders.

## **( )Can I get a Parenting Plan in Washington State?**

It depends. Washington may not have the legal authority (jurisdiction) to make a Parenting Plan if:

- Your children live in a different state
- The children haven't been living in Washington for at least 6 months
- Another state has already made an order about the children

If any of these describes your situation, try to talk to a lawyer before trying to file for a Parenting Plan in Washington State.

## **Will the judge approve my Parenting Plan?**

It depends:

- **If you and the other parent agree on a proposed Parenting Plan:** the judge will usually approve it.
- **If you and the other parent disagree:** the judge will decide on a Parenting Plan after hearing or trial. The judge will look at many things when deciding, most importantly what's in the children's best interests. See Chapter 2: Who gets custody?

## 2. Who gets custody?

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In Washington, a Parenting Plan doesn't award **custody**. Instead, it has a **Parenting Time Schedule** that says when the children will live with each parent. If the parents don't agree on a schedule, the judge will decide one in the children's best interest.

**First** the judge must consider if either parent has serious problems that affect the children.

**Examples:** abandonment, neglect, abuse, domestic violence, sex offense, drug or alcohol abuse, emotional, physical, or other problems.

For certain problems, the judge **must** limit a parent's time with the children. For other problems, the judge **may** set limits. See Chapter 3: Limitations and restrictions.

**Next**, the judge considers the children's relationship with each parent. This is the most important factor. The judge will probably order that the children live with the parent with whom they're most closely bonded. The judge will also consider:

- Agreements the parents have made.
- Each parent's past and future potential for taking care of the children.
- Each child's emotional needs and developmental level.
- The children's relationships with siblings and other important adults, the children's involvement with school, and the children's activities and community.
- The parents' wishes.
- A mature child's wishes - usually a teenager.
- Each parent's work schedule.

The judge **shouldn't** look at which parent earns more or if a parent is going to remarry.

## Can I ask for a Parenting Plan that gives us joint custody?

It depends. Washington judges don't automatically make final Parenting Plans that split custody 50/50. Under state law you must meet these requirements:

- There are no legal reasons for the judge to limit either parent's time with the children **and**
- You've both agreed to the schedule **or**
- You have a history of cooperation and shared parenting, **and** live close enough **and**

- Joint custody is in the children's best interests.

Even if you meet these requirements, you might want to talk to a lawyer (<https://wlh.netlify.app/en/get-legal-help>) about joint custody before agreeing to it or asking for it in a Parenting Plan. Joint custody requires a real commitment from both parents to work together regularly.

### 3. Limitations and restrictions

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**If you believe the other parent may harm the children (or harm you),** you can ask the judge to limit the other parent's time with the children.

#### Reasons to put limitations on a parent

Generally, the judge **must** limit a parent's time with their children if that parent, or someone living with them, has engaged in any of these:

- Long-term willful abandonment of the children, or the parent substantially refuses to care for the children.
- Physical, sexual, or a pattern of emotional abuse of children.
- A history of domestic violence, or an assault or a sexual assault causing serious bodily harm or the fear of it.
- The parent has been convicted as an adult of certain sex crimes or has been found to be a sexual predator.

The judge **may** limit a parent's time if they find any of these:

- The parent has neglected the children or hasn't cared for them.

- The parent has a long-term emotional or physical problem interfering with their ability to take care of the children.
- The parent has a long-term substance abuse problem interfering with their ability to take care of the children.
- The parent and children have no emotional bond or a seriously damaged emotional bond.
- The parent has engaged in the abusive use of conflict, including the abusive use of the court system (<https://legalvoice.org/abusive-litigation/>), creating a danger of serious damage to the children's psychological development.
- The parent has denied the other parent contact with the children for a long time without good reason.

( )If the judge finds reason to limit a parent's time with the children, in most cases, the judge won't give that parent custody. In very rare and serious cases if nothing else will protect the children, a judge must order that parent have no contact with the children. A judge could order many other restrictions.

A judge must follow specific rules if a parent or someone living with them has a conviction for some sex crimes or if a court has found in some types of civil cases that they've harmed the children. Such a parent rarely gets unsupervised contact with their children.

If you have or the other parent has such a conviction, talk with a lawyer.

## Limitations (restrictions)



The Parenting Plan can restrict a parent in any way you could reasonably expect to protect the children. Common restrictions include requiring that parent to:

- See the children only when supervised by a professional supervisor or a neutral third party.
- Complete domestic violence or substance abuse treatment.
- Take random drug or alcohol tests.
- Complete a parenting class.
- Get counseling or take any physician-prescribed medication for their mental health condition.
- Complete a sexual deviancy evaluation.
- Stop interfering with the other parent's contact with the children.
- Stop causing conflict or picking fights with the other parent for no good reason.

## 4. Decision-making

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Either parent can make **emergency decisions** about the children, and can make day-to-day decisions when the children are in that parent's care such as what the children will eat, or who will babysit the children.

A Parenting Plan will say if one or both parents can decide **non-emergency decisions**, such as where the children will go to school, what doctors the children see, and when the children get medical care. But the judge must order that **only one parent can make these decisions** if a limiting factor applies to the other parent, or if neither parent wants joint decision-making.

The judge can order **sole decision-making to one parent who opposes joint decision-making because:**

- A limiting factor applies to the other parent.
- The other parent doesn't have a history of taking part in decision-making about the children.
- The parents don't want to and cannot cooperate in decision-making.
- The parents don't live close enough to each other to make timely joint decisions.

Parenting involves decision-making in many areas. All Parenting Plans should cover school/education and healthcare decisions. You can include other types of decisions in your Parenting Plan that are important to your family. For example: extracurricular activities, international travel, cell phones, driver's licenses, tattoos, or haircuts.

**Religious upbringing:** Unless the judge decides that exposure to a parent's religious views may harm the children, the judge should let each parent give the children the religious instruction the parent chooses while the children are with that parent.

This isn't "joint" decision-making. It's each parent making decisions on that parent's time and not interfering with the other parent's decisions.

## 5. Disagreements

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The Parenting Plan asks you to choose a way to solve future disagreements about what it says or means. You can go back to court or choose “Alternative Dispute Resolution” (ADR).

ADR means alternatives to court, including counseling, mediation, and arbitration. You and the other parent can choose one of these to avoid coming back to court. ADR can be helpful.

If your Parenting Plan says ADR is required, you must try ADR before going to back court over a disagreement.

You can always go back to court to solve a disagreement if ADR doesn't work, or if it's not required.

The judge should **not** require ADR if any of these are true:

- A limiting factor applies to a parent.
- The parents can't take part in dispute resolution equally.
- One of you can't afford alternative dispute resolution.

## ADR choices

If you choose **counseling**, you'll typically meet with a mental health professional who will use counseling techniques to help resolve your disagreement.

If you choose **mediation**, you'll meet with a mediator. A mediator is a neutral third party who may be a lawyer, retired judge or court commissioner, or mental health professional. The mediator will try to get you to come to an agreement.

If you choose an arbitrator, you'll meet with a neutral third party (a lawyer, or retired judge or court commissioner) who may try to help you reach agreement, but who will make a decision you both must follow if you cannot.

If the Parenting Plan calls for **arbitration**, you can file a motion with the court asking for a review of the arbitrator's decision.

You must usually pay a counselor, mediator, or arbitrator. It can cost a lot. But ADR can help you avoid the stress, expense, and unpredictability of court.

## 6. Enforcement

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Once the judge signs a Parenting Plan, it becomes a court order. Both parents must follow it. **For example**, you may not refuse to allow the other parent to see the children just because that parent hasn't paid child support.

If the other parent doesn't let you see the children when you have the right to, the judge may find the other parent in "**contempt**." The judge could order make-up visitation time, jail time, fines, or some other type of punishment. Depending on which part of the parenting plan you don't follow, you might even face criminal charges for custodial interference.

**Beware:** If you have custody, and a judge finds you in contempt more than once in a 3-year period, the judge might give the other parent custody.

You might be able to avoid contempt or criminal charges if you have a good excuse for not following the parenting plan. **For example**, if following the order would cause you or the children serious harm, that would be a good excuse. Even then, you can't simply refuse to follow the court order. You must return to court to ask for changes to the order.

If you don't want to follow part of a Parenting Plan, you should get the other parent's written permission not to. If that doesn't work, you should contact a lawyer. You might be able to file a motion or petition to change your parenting plan.

Answer a few questions on **Get Family and Safety Forms** to get the right forms for your situation.

## 7. Changes

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A Parenting Plan can be hard to change after a judge signs it, especially if it's a final Parenting Plan. But it is possible. You must go through a court process to change your Parenting Plan.

- If the parents **agree** to the change, a judge will usually, but not always, change a Parenting Plan, whether it's temporary or final.
- If the parents **don't agree** to change a **temporary** Parenting Plan, you can usually file a motion for new temporary orders.
- If the parents **don't agree** to change a **final** Parenting Plan, you can file a petition to change parenting plan. A judge may make **major changes**

such as custody only if a major change has taken place in the children's or other parent's life since the judge signed the original parenting plan. It's not enough that the parent wanting the change thinks their life has gotten better and should now have custody.

Answer a few questions on **Get Family and Safety Forms** to get the right forms for your situation.

Here are some examples of when a judge will make major changes to a Parenting Plan:

- The children have gone to live with one parent for a long time with the permission of the parent who has custody under the Parenting Plan.
- The parent who doesn't want the change has been held in contempt of court at least twice in 3 years, or has been convicted of interfering with the other parent's custody or visitation.
- The present custody situation is physically or emotionally harmful to the children.

The judge can make smaller (**minor**) changes to a final Parenting Plan more easily. **For example**, a judge can make minor changes to the amount of time or certain days the children spend with either parent if it's in the children's best interests.

## 8. Moving (Relocation)

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Once you have a Final Parenting Plan, you can probably legally move away with the children if you do what the Parenting Plan says. All Parenting Plans have a section on moving with the children that summarizes state law:

- You usually must give the other parent notice beforehand. (There are a few exceptions to this.)
- You usually must give the other parent a chance to object to a move outside the school district.
- The other parent can ask the court to change your Parenting Plan, including who the children live with, if you ask to move the children outside of the school district.

## 9. Parenting Plan form

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Form attached:

**Parenting Plan** (FL All Family 140)

You may need more than just the Parenting Plan form.

Answer a few questions on **Get Family and Safety Forms** to get the right forms for your situation.

**WashingtonLawHelp.org** gives general information. It is not legal advice. Find organizations that provide free legal help on our Get legal help page.

Superior Court of Washington, County of \_\_\_\_\_

In re:

Petitioner/s (*person/s who started this case*):

\_\_\_\_\_

And Respondent/s (*other party/parties*):

\_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Parenting Plan**

(PPP/PPT/PP)

Clerk's Action Required: **1**

**Parenting Plan**

1. This parenting plan is a (*check one*):

☐ **Proposal** (request) by a parent (*name/s*): \_\_\_\_\_.  
It is not a signed court order. (PPP)

☐ **Court order** signed by a judge or commissioner. This is a (*check one*):

☐ Temporary order. (PPT)

☐ Final order. (PP)

☐ This final parenting plan changes the last final parenting plan.

2. **Children** – This parenting plan is for the following children:

Child's name	Age	Child's name	Age
1.		2.	
3.		4.	
5.		6.	

3. **Reasons for putting limitations on a parent** (under RCW 26.09.191)

a. **Abandonment, neglect, child abuse, domestic violence, assault, or sex offense.** (*If a parent has any of these problems, the court **must** limit that parent's contact with the children and that parent's right to make decisions for the children, and may not require dispute resolution other than court.*)

☐ Neither parent has any of these problems. (*Skip to 3.b.*)



- ☐ A parent has one or more of these problems as follows (*check all that apply*):
- ☐ **Abandonment** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
intentionally abandoned a child listed in **2** for an extended time.
  - ☐ **Neglect** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
substantially refused to perform his/her parenting duties for a child listed in **2**.
  - ☐ **Child Abuse** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
(or someone living in that parent's home) abused or threatened to abuse a child. The abuse was (*check all that apply*):  
☐ physical ☐ sexual ☐ repeated emotional abuse.
  - ☐ **Domestic Violence** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
(or someone living in that parent's home) has a history of domestic violence as defined in RCW 7.105.010.
  - ☐ **Assault** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
(or someone living in that parent's home) has assaulted or sexually assaulted someone causing grievous physical harm, causing fear of such harm, or resulting in a pregnancy.
  - ☐ **Sex Offense** –
    - ☐ (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
has been convicted of a sex offense as an adult.
    - ☐ Someone living in (*parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_'s home has been convicted as an adult or adjudicated as a juvenile of a sex offense.

**b. Other problems** that may harm the children's best interests. (*If a parent has any of these problems, the court **may** limit that parent's contact with the children and that parent's right to make decisions for the children.*)

- ☐ Neither parent has any of these problems. (*Skip to 4.*)
- ☐ A parent has one or more of these problems as follows (*check all that apply*):
  - ☐ **Neglect** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
neglected his/her parental duties towards a child listed in **2**.
  - ☐ **Emotional or physical problem** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ has a long-term emotional or physical problem that gets in the way of his/her ability to parent.
  - ☐ **Substance Abuse** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
has a long-term problem with drugs, alcohol, or other substances that gets in the way of his/her ability to parent.
  - ☐ **Lack of emotional ties** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
has few or no emotional ties with a child listed in **2**.
  - ☐ **Abusive use of conflict** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
uses conflict in a way that may cause serious damage to the psychological development of a child listed in **2**.
  - ☐ **Withholding the child** – (*Parent's name*): \_\_\_\_\_  
has kept the other parent away from a child listed in **2** for a long time, without a good reason.

☐ **Other** (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Limitations on a parent**

☐ Does not apply. There are no reasons for limitations checked in **3.a. or 3.b.** above.  
(Skip to 5.)

☐ **No limitations despite reasons** (explain why there are no limitations on a parent even though there are reasons for limitations checked in **3.a. or 3.b.** above): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ **The following limits or conditions apply to** (parent's name): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (check all that apply):

☐ No contact with the children.

☐ Limited contact as shown in the Parenting Time Schedule (sections **8 – 11**) below.

☐ Limited contact as follows (specify schedule, list all contact **here** instead of in the Parenting Time Schedule): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Supervised contact.** All parenting time shall be supervised. Any costs of supervision must be paid by (name): \_\_\_\_\_

The supervisor shall be:

☐ a professional supervisor (name): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ a non-professional supervisor (name): \_\_\_\_\_

The dates and times of supervised contact will be:

☐ as shown in the Parenting Time Schedule (sections **8 – 11**) below.

☐ as follows (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Specific rules for supervision, if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other limitations or conditions during parenting time (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Evaluation or treatment required.** (Name): \_\_\_\_\_ must:

☐ be evaluated for: \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ start (or continue) and comply with treatment:

☐ as recommended by the evaluation.

☐ as follows (specify kind of treatment and any other details): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ provide a copy of the evaluation and compliance reports (*specify details*): \_\_\_\_\_

If this parent does not follow the evaluation or treatment requirements above, then (*what happens*): \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Decision-making

When the children are with you, you are responsible for them. You can make day-to-day decisions for the children when they are with you, including decisions about safety and emergency healthcare. Major decisions must be made as follows:

### a. Who can make major decisions about the children?

Type of Major Decision	Joint ( <i>parents make these decisions together</i> )	Limited ( <i>only the parent named below has authority to make these decisions</i> )
School/Educational	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (Name):
Healthcare (not emergency)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (Name):
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (Name):
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (Name):
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (Name):

**Important!** Parenting involves decision-making in many areas. If you believe there are other decisions that are important to your family, list them under "Other" above. Some examples include: extracurricular activities, international travel, cell phones, driver's licenses, tattoos, and haircuts.

### b. Reasons for limits on major decision-making, if any:

- ☐ There are no reasons to limit major decision-making.
- ☐ Major decision-making **must** be limited because one of the parents has problems as described in **3.a.** above.
- ☐ Major decision-making **should** be limited because (*check all that apply*):
  - ☐ Both parents are against shared decision-making.
  - ☐ One of the parents does not want to share decision-making and this is reasonable because of:
    - ☐ problems as described in **3.b.** above.
    - ☐ the history of each parent's participation in decision-making.
    - ☐ the parents' ability and desire to cooperate with each other in decision-making.
    - ☐ the distance between the parents' homes makes it hard to make timely decisions together.

## 6. Dispute Resolution

**Important!** After this parenting plan is signed by a judge or commissioner, if you and the other parent disagree about shared decisions or what parts of this plan mean, the court may require you to use a dispute resolution provider before going back to court. The court may only require a dispute resolution provider if there are **no** limitations in 3.a. above. If a dispute resolution provider is checked below, the parents may, and sometimes must, use this provider before filing a Petition to Change a Parenting Plan or a Motion for Contempt for not following the plan. Check your county's Local Court Rules.

**a. The parents will go to (check one):**

☐ The dispute resolution provider below (before they may go to court):

☐ Mediation (*mediator or agency name*): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Arbitration (*arbitrator or agency name*): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Counseling (*counselor or agency name*): \_\_\_\_\_

If a dispute resolution provider is not named above or if the named provider is no longer available, the parents may agree on a provider or ask the court to name one.

**Important!** Unless there is an emergency, the parents must participate in the dispute resolution process listed above in good faith, before going to court for disagreements about joint decisions or what parts of this plan mean. This section does **not** apply to disagreements about money or support.

☐ Court (without having to go to mediation, arbitration, or counseling).

(If you check this box, skip to section 7 below and do not fill out 6.b.)

**b. If mediation, arbitration, or counseling is required, one parent must notify the other parent by (check one):** ☐ certified mail ☐ other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_.

The parents will pay for the mediation, arbitration, or counseling services as follows (*check one*):

☐ (Name): \_\_\_\_\_ will pay \_\_\_\_\_%,

(Name): \_\_\_\_\_ will pay \_\_\_\_\_%.

☐ based on each parents' Proportional Share of Income (percentage) from line 6 of the *Child Support Worksheet*.

☐ as decided through the dispute resolution process.

**What to expect in the dispute resolution process:**

- Preference shall be given to carrying out the parenting plan.
- If you reach an agreement, it must be put into writing, signed, and both parents must get a copy.
- If the court finds that you have used or frustrated the dispute resolution process without a good reason, the court can order you to pay financial sanctions (penalties) including the other parent's legal fees.
- You may go back to court if the dispute resolution process doesn't solve the disagreement or if you disagree with the arbitrator's decision.

## 7. Custodian

The custodian is (name): \_\_\_\_\_ solely for the purpose of all state and federal statutes which require a designation or determination of custody. Even though one parent is called the custodian, this does not change the parenting rights and responsibilities described in this plan.

*(Washington law generally refers to parenting time and decision-making, rather than custody. However, some state and federal laws require that one person be named the custodian. The custodian is the person with whom the children are scheduled to reside a majority of their time.)*

### ➤ Parenting Time Schedule (Residential Provisions)

Check one:

- ☐ **Limited schedule only** – The children live with (name): \_\_\_\_\_ and have no contact with the other parent except as described in section 4.

*(You may **skip** the parenting time schedule in sections 8 – 11, unless you want a different Summer or Holiday schedule, including to give uninterrupted time for vacation and holidays to the parent **not** subject to limitations.)*

- ☐ **Complete** the parenting time schedule in sections 8 – 11.

## 8. School Schedule

### a. Children under school-age

- ☐ Does not apply. All children are school-age.
- ☐ The schedule for children under school-age is the same as for school-age children.
- ☐ Children under school-age are scheduled to live with (name): \_\_\_\_\_, except when they are scheduled to live with (name): \_\_\_\_\_ on (check all that apply):
- ☐ WEEKENDS: ☐ every week ☐ every other week ☐ other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
from (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.  
from (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.
- ☐ WEEKDAYS: ☐ every week ☐ every other week ☐ other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
from (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.  
from (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.
- ☐ OTHER (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**b. School-age children**

This schedule will apply (*check one*):

- ☐ immediately.
- ☐ when the youngest child enters (*check one*): ☐ Kindergarten ☐ 1st grade
- ☐ when the oldest child enters (*check one*): ☐ Kindergarten ☐ 1st grade
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The children are scheduled to live with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_,  
except when they are scheduled to live with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_ on  
(*check all that apply*):

- ☐ WEEKENDS: ☐ every week ☐ every other week ☐ other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_  
from (*day*) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (*day*) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.  
from (*day*) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (*day*) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.
- ☐ WEEKDAYS: ☐ every week ☐ every other week ☐ other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_  
from (*day*) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (*day*) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.  
from (*day*) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (*day*) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.
- ☐ OTHER (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Summer Schedule**

Summer begins and ends ☐ according to the school calendar. ☐ as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ The Summer Schedule is the **same** as the School Schedule. (*Skip to 10.*)
- ☐ The Summer Schedule is the **same** as the School Schedule **except** that each parent shall spend \_\_\_\_\_ weeks of uninterrupted vacation time with the children each summer. The parents shall confirm their vacation schedules in writing by the end of (*date*) \_\_\_\_\_ each year. (*Skip to 10.*)
- ☐ The Summer Schedule is **different** than the School Schedule. The Summer Schedule will begin the summer before (*check one*): ☐ the youngest child  
☐ the oldest child ☐ each child  
begins (*check one*): ☐ Kindergarten ☐ 1st grade ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
During the summer the children are scheduled to live with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_,  
except when they are scheduled to live with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_ on  
(*check all that apply*):

- ☐ WEEKENDS: ☐ every week ☐ every other week ☐ other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 from (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.  
 from (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.
- ☐ WEEKDAYS: ☐ every week ☐ every other week ☐ other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 from (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.  
 from (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m. to (day) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.
- ☐ OTHER (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

#### 10. Holiday Schedule (includes school breaks and special occasions)

- ☐ The Holiday Schedule is the **same** as the School and Summer Schedules above for all holidays, school breaks, and special occasions. *(Skip to 11.)*
- ☐ The children are scheduled to spend holidays, school breaks, and special occasions as follows:  
*(Check all that apply. Note any differences for children who have not yet started school.)*
- ☐ **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** – Begins and ends (day/time): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Odd years with (name): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.  
☐ Every year with (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ With the parent who has the children for the attached weekend.  
☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Presidents' Day** – Begins and ends (day/time): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Odd years with (name): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.  
☐ Every year with (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ With the parent who has the children for the attached weekend.  
☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Mid-winter Break** – Begins and ends (day/time): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Odd years with (name): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.  
☐ Every year with (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Each parent has the children for the half of break attached to his/her weekend. The children must be exchanged on Wednesday at (time): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Spring Break** – Begins and ends (day/time): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Odd years with (name): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.  
☐ Every year with (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Each parent has the children for the half of break attached to his/her weekend. The children must be exchanged on Wednesday at (time): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **Mother's Day** – Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Memorial Day** – Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ With the parent who has the children for the attached weekend.
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Father's Day** – Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Fourth of July** – Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Follow the Summer Schedule in section 9.
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Labor Day** – Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ With the parent who has the children for the attached weekend.
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Thanksgiving Day/Break** – Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Winter Break** – Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



- ☐ **Christmas Eve/Day** – Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Follow the Winter Break schedule above.
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **New Year's Eve/Day** – Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_  
(*odd/even is based on New Year's Eve*)
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Follow the Winter Break schedule above.
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **All three-day weekends not listed elsewhere**  
(*Federal holidays, school in-service days, etc.*)
- ☐ The children shall spend any unspecified holiday or non-school day with the parent who has them for the attached weekend.
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Important!** Families in Washington observe a broad range of religions and traditions. Your Parenting Plan can provide for how children will spend time on other significant days. (Examples: Eid, Passover, Easter, Chinese New Year, birthdays, etc.) Add lines as needed.

- ☐ **Other occasion important to the family:** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Other occasion important to the family:** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **Other occasion important to the family:** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Begins and ends (*day/time*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Odd years with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_; Even years with the other parent.
- ☐ Every year with (*name*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other plan: \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Conflicts in Scheduling**

The Holiday Schedule must be observed over all other schedules. If there are conflicts within the Holiday Schedule (*check all that apply*):

- ☐ Named holidays shall be followed before school breaks.
- ☐ Children's birthday/s shall be followed before named holidays and school breaks.
- ☐ Other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

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**12. Transportation Arrangements**

The children will be exchanged for parenting time (picked up and dropped off) at:

- ☐ each parent's home
- ☐ school or daycare, when in session
- ☐ other location (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

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Who is responsible for arranging transportation?

- ☐ The **picking up** parent – The parent who is about to **start** parenting time with the children must arrange to have the children picked up.
- ☐ The **dropping off** parent – The parent whose parenting time is **ending** must arrange to have the children dropped off.

Other details (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Moving with the Child/ren (Relocation)**

Anyone with majority or substantially equal residential time (at least 45 percent) who wants to move with the children **must notify** every other person who has court-ordered time with the children.

**Move to a different school district**

If the move is to a different school district, the relocating person must complete the form *Notice of Intent to Move with Children* (FL Relocate 701) and deliver it at least **60 days** before the intended move.

*Exceptions:*

- If the relocating person could not reasonably have known enough information to complete the form in time to give 60 days' notice, they must give notice within **5 days** after learning the information.
- If the relocating person is relocating to a domestic violence shelter or moving to avoid a clear, immediate, and unreasonable risk to health or safety, notice may be delayed **21 days**.
- If information is protected under a court order or the address confidentiality program, it may be withheld from the notice.
- A relocating person who believes that giving notice would put themselves or a child at unreasonable risk of harm, may ask the court for permission to leave things out of the notice or to be allowed to move without giving notice. Use form *Motion to Limit Notice of Intent to Move with Children (Ex Parte)* (FL Relocate 702).

The *Notice of Intent to Move with Children* can be delivered by having someone personally serve the other party or by any form of mail that requires a return receipt.

If the relocating person wants to change the *Parenting Plan* because of the move, they must deliver a proposed *Parenting Plan* together with the *Notice*.

***Move within the same school district***

If the move is within the *same* school district, the relocating person still has to let the other parent know. However, the notice does not have to be served personally or by mail with a return receipt. Notice to the other party can be made in any reasonable way. No specific form is required.

***Warning! If you do not notify...***

A relocating person who does not give the required notice may be found in contempt of court. If that happens, the court can impose sanctions. Sanctions can include requiring the relocating person to bring the children back if the move has already happened, and ordering the relocating person to pay the other side's costs and lawyer's fees.

***Right to object***

A person who has court-ordered time with the children can object to a move to a different school district and/or to the relocating person's proposed *Parenting Plan*. If the move is within the same school district, the other party doesn't have the right to object to the move, but they may ask to change the *Parenting Plan* if there are adequate reasons under the modification law (RCW 26.09.260).

An objection is made by filing the *Objection about Moving with Children and Petition about Changing a Parenting/Custody Order (Relocation)* (form FL Relocate 721). File your *Objection* with the court and serve a copy on the relocating person and anyone else who has court-ordered time with the children. Service of the *Objection* must be by personal service or by mailing a copy to each person by any form of mail that requires a return receipt. The *Objection* must be filed and served no later than **30 days** after the *Notice of Intent to Move with Children* was received.

### ***Right to move***

During the 30 days after the *Notice* was served, the relocating person may not move to a different school district with the children unless they have a court order allowing the move.

After the 30 days, if no *Objection* is filed, the relocating person may move with the children without getting a court order allowing the move.

After the 30 days, if an *Objection* has been filed, the relocating person may move with the children **pending** the final hearing on the *Objection* **unless**:

- The other party gets a court order saying the children cannot move, or
- The other party has scheduled a hearing to take place no more than 15 days after the date the *Objection* was served on the relocating person. (However, the relocating person may ask the court for an order allowing the move even though a hearing is pending if the relocating person believes that they or a child is at unreasonable risk of harm.)

The court may make a different decision about the move at a final hearing on the *Objection*.

### ***Parenting Plan after move***

If the relocating person served a proposed *Parenting Plan* with the *Notice*, **and** if no *Objection* is filed within 30 days after the *Notice* was served (or if the parties agree):

- Both parties may follow that proposed plan without being held in contempt of the *Parenting Plan* that was in place before the move. However, the proposed plan cannot be enforced by contempt unless it has been approved by a court.
- Either party may ask the court to approve the proposed plan. Use form *Ex Parte Motion for Final Order Changing Parenting Plan – No Objection to Moving with Children* (FL Relocate 706).

### ***Forms***

You can find forms about moving with children at:

- The Washington State Courts' website: [www.courts.wa.gov/forms](http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms),
- Washington LawHelp: [www.washingtonlawhelp.org](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org), or
- The Superior Court Clerk's office or county law library (for a fee).

*(This is a summary of the law. The complete law is in RCW 26.09.430 through 26.09.480.)*

## **14. Other**

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## **15. Proposal**

- ☐ Does not apply. This is a court order.
- ☐ This is a **proposed** (requested) parenting plan. *(The parent/s requesting this plan must read and sign below.)*

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that this plan was proposed in good faith and that the information in section **3** above is true.



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent requesting plan signs here*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signed at (city and state)*



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Other parent requesting plan (if agreed) signs here*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signed at (city and state)*

**16. Court Order**

- ☐ Does not apply. This is a proposal.
- ☐ This is a court order (if signed by a judge or commissioner below).

**Findings of Fact** – Based on the pleadings and any other evidence considered:

The Court adopts the statements in section **3** (*Reasons for putting limitations on a parent*) as its findings.

☐ The Court makes additional findings which are:

☐ contained in an order or findings of fact entered at the same time as this *Parenting Plan*.

☐ attached as Exhibit A as part of this *Parenting Plan*.

☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusions of Law** – This *Parenting Plan* is in the best interest of the children.

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Order** – The parties must follow this *Parenting Plan*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Judge or Commissioner signs here*

**Warning!** If you do not follow this *Parenting Plan*, the court may find you in contempt (RCW 26.09.160). You still have to follow this *Parenting Plan* even if the other parent doesn't. Violation of **residential** provisions of this order with actual knowledge of its terms is punishable by contempt of court and may be a criminal offense under RCW 9A.40.060(2) or 9A.40.070(2). Violation of this order may subject a violator to arrest.

**If this is a court order, the parties and/or their lawyers (and any GAL) sign below.**

This order (*check any that apply*):

- ☐ is an agreement of the parties.
- ☐ is presented by me.
- ☐ may be signed by the court without notice to me.

This order (*check any that apply*):

- ☐ is an agreement of the parties.
- ☐ is presented by me.
- ☐ may be signed by the court without notice to me.



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Petitioner or lawyer signs here + WSBA #*



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Respondent or lawyer signs here + WSBA #*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

This order (*check any that apply*):

This order (*check any that apply*):

☐ is an agreement of the parties.  
☐ is presented by me.  
☐ may be signed by the court without notice to me.

☐ is an agreement of the parties.  
☐ is presented by me.  
☐ may be signed by the court without notice to me.

► \_\_\_\_\_  
*Other party **or** lawyer signs here + WSBA #*

► \_\_\_\_\_  
*Other party **or** Guardian ad Litem signs here*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name* *Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name* *Date*