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PARENTING PLAN

SELF-SERVICE CENTER

PARENTING PLAN INFORMATION

A.R.S. § 25-401 defines legal decision-making and parenting time as follows:

1. **"Legal Decision-Making"** means the legal right and responsibility to make all nonemergency legal decisions for a child including those regarding education, health care, religious training and personal care decisions.
2. **"Joint Legal Decision-Making"** means both parents share decision-making and neither parent's rights or responsibilities are superior except with respect to specified decisions as set forth by the court or the parents in the final judgment or order.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: Per A.R.S. § 25-403.09, an award of joint legal decision-making or a substantially equal parenting time plan does not diminish the responsibility of either parent to provide for the support of the child. Also note that joint legal decision-making does not necessarily mean equal parenting time. A.R.S. § 25-403.02(E)

3. **"Sole Legal Decision-Making"** means one parent has the legal right and responsibility to make major decisions for a child.
4. **"Parenting Time"** means the schedule of time during which each parent has access to a child at specified times. Each parent during their scheduled parenting time is responsible for providing the child with food, clothing and shelter and may make routine decisions concerning the child's care.

You may view the "Parenting Time Guidelines" online at the Arizona Supreme Court's website.

Drafting a Parenting Plan:

The written parenting plan pays attention to how the parents will make decisions pertaining to the child(ren)'s education, health care, religious training, and personal care; it is a blend of specific information with generalized plans of action. It should reflect what the parents are currently doing or what they actually plan to do. It should reflect a commitment to the minor child(ren)'s needs as predominant.

If the parents cannot agree on a plan for legal decision-making or parenting time, each parent must submit a proposed parenting plan. A.R.S. § 25-403.02(A)

In order for the court to approve a parenting plan, A.R.S. § 25-403.02 requires the court to make the following findings:

- a. The best interests of the minor child(ren) are served;
- b. The plan designates legal decision-making as joint or sole;
- c. The plan sets forth each parent's rights and responsibilities for the personal care of the minor child(ren) and for decisions in areas such as education, health care, and religious training;
- d. The plan provides a practical schedule of parenting time for the child, including holidays and school vacations;
- e. The plan includes a procedure for exchanges of the child, including location and responsibility for transportation;

- f. The plan includes a procedure by which proposed changes, disputes and alleged breaches may be mediated or resolved, which may include the use of Conciliation Services or private counseling;
- g. The plan includes a procedure for periodic review (e.g., parents agree to review the terms of the agreement every 12 months.);
- h. The plan includes a procedure for communicating with each other about the child, including methods and frequency;
- i. The plan includes a statement that each party has read, understands, and will abide by the notification requirements of A.R.S. § 25-403.05(B). (A parent must immediately notify the other parent if the parent knows that a convicted/registered sex offender or a person who has been convicted of a dangerous crime against children may have access to the child. Notice must be provided (i) by first class mail, return receipt requested, (ii) by electronic means to an e-mail address the recipient provided to the parent for notification purposes, or (iii) by other communication accepted by the court.)

The following questions may be used as a starting place when drafting a parenting plan:

1. **The geographical location of the parents:** Where do parents live relative to one another? What are their addresses? Permanent or temporary?
2. **Arrangements regarding the residential requirements of the minor child(ren):** How much time will the minor child(ren) spend with each parent? Be as specific as possible, including days and times.
3. **Arrangements for holidays and vacations:** What are your plans for summer vacation and school breaks? List specific details including dates and times.
4. **Arrangements for education:** How will decisions be made for educational matters? For example, if preschool age, what school will the minor child(ren) attend? If private school, who pays what?
5. **Additional transportation arrangements:** Will any additional transportation arrangements be needed? If so, what will be the responsibilities of each parent?
6. **Determinations regarding minor child(ren)'s health care:** For example, how will medical decisions be made? Who will provide insurance? How are non-insured expenses paid? Who decides on seeking non-emergency treatment? Is there a dental plan? If not, who will pay what?
7. **Arrangements regarding extraordinary expenses:** For example, what financial arrangements are made for the minor child(ren) (such as each sharing extraordinary expenditures and the parent with whom the minor child(ren) resides bearing the ordinary ones during the minor child(ren)'s residency)? A fixed amount per month?
8. **Arrangements for minor child(ren)'s religious training, if any:** For example, how will decisions be made for religious training? What, if any, are the plans for religious training?
9. **Any other factors:** What other arrangements (such as music lessons, sports/activity fees, camp or Scouts) are needed?

Person Filing: _____
Address (if not protected): _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____
Email Address: _____
ATLAS Number: _____
Lawyer's Bar Number: _____

For Clerk's Use Only

Representing Self, without a Lawyer or Attorney for Petitioner OR Respondent

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN GILA COUNTY

Name of Petitioner

Case Number: _____

AND

PARENTING PLAN FOR:

JOINT LEGAL DECISION MAKING
(CUSTODY) WITH JOINT LEGAL
DECISION MAKING (CUSTODY)
AGREEMENT

or

SOLE LEGAL DECISION-MAKING
(CUSTODY)

to Mother

to Father

Name of Respondent

INSTRUCTIONS

This document has 4 parts: PART 1) General Information; PART 2) Legal Decision Making (Custody) and Parenting Time; PART 3) Danger to Children Notification Statement; and PART 4) Joint Legal Decision Making (Custody) Agreement. Where this form refers to "children" it refers to any and all minor children common to the parties whether one or more.

One or both parents must complete and sign the Plan as follows:

- a. If only *one* parent is submitting the Plan: that parent must sign at the end of PART 2 and 3.
- b. If both parents agree to legal decision making (custody) and parenting time arrangements *but not to joint legal decision making (custody)*: Both parents must sign the Plan at the end of PART 2 and 3.
- c. If both parents agree to joint legal decision making (custody) and parenting time arrangements as presented in the Plan: Both parents must sign the Plan at the end of PART 2, 3, and 4.

PART 1: GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. MINOR CHILDREN. This Plan concerns the following minor children:
(Use additional paper if necessary)

B. THE FOLLOWING LEGAL DECISION-MAKING (CUSTODY) ARRANGEMENT IS REQUESTED:

(Choose ONE of 1, 2, 3, 4.) (If you chose "sole legal decision-making authority" [1 or 2], you have the option of also requesting restrictions on the parenting time of the other party.

1. SOLE LEGAL DECISION-MAKING (CUSTODY) BY AGREEMENT. The parents agree that sole legal decision-making authority (custody) and primary physical custody should be granted to the Mother Father.

The parents agree that since each has a unique contribution to offer to the growth and development of their minor children, each of them will continue to have a full and active role in providing a sound moral, social, economic, and educational environment for the benefit of the minor children, as described in the following pages,

OR

2. SOLE LEGAL DECISION-MAKING (CUSTODY) REQUESTED BY THE PARENT SUBMITTING THIS PLAN. The parents cannot agree to the terms of legal decision making (custody) and parenting time. The parent submitting this Plan asks the court to order sole legal decision-making authority and parenting time according to this Plan.

(Optional, if you marked 1 or 2 above)

RESTRICTED, SUPERVISED, OR NO PARENTING TIME.

The parent submitting this Plan asks the court for an order restricting parenting time. The facts and information related to this request are described in the Petition.

OR

3. JOINT LEGAL DECISION-MAKING (CUSTODY) BY AGREEMENT. The parents agree to joint legal decision-making (custody) and request the court to approve the joint legal decision-making (custody) arrangement as described in this Plan. Primary physical custody will be with the Mother Father,

OR

- 4. JOINT LEGAL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY (CUSTODY) REQUESTED BY THE PARENT SUBMITTING THIS PLAN.** The parents cannot agree to the terms of legal decision making and parenting time **or** are unable to submit this plan together at this time. My request for joint legal decision-making authority is deferred for the court's determination.

PART 2: PHYSICAL CUSTODY AND PARENTING TIME. Complete each section below. Be specific about what you want the judge to approve in the court order.

A. (School Year) WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND TIME-SHARING SCHEDULE:

- The minor children will be in the care of Father as follows: (Explain).

- The minor children will be in the care of Mother as follows: (Explain).

- Other physical custody arrangements are as follows: (Explain).

- Transportation will be provided as follows:

- Mother** or **Father** will pick the minor children up at _____ o'clock.

- Mother** or **Father** will drop the minor children off at _____ o'clock.

Parents may change their time-share arrangements by mutual agreement with at least ____ days notice in advance to the other parent.

B. SUMMER MONTHS OR SCHOOL BREAK LONGER THAN 4 DAYS: The weekday and weekend schedule described above will apply for all 12 calendar months **EXCEPT:**

- During summer months or school breaks that last longer than 4 days, no changes shall be made. **OR,**

- During summer months or school breaks that last longer than 4 days, the minor children will be in the care of Father: (Explain)

- During summer months or school breaks that last longer than 4 days, the minor children will be in the care of Mother: (Explain)

- Each parent is entitled to a _____ week period of vacation time with the minor children. The parents will work out the details of the vacation at least _____ days in advance.

C. TRAVEL

- Should either parent travel out of the area with the minor children, each parent will keep the other parent informed of travel plans, address(es), and telephone number(s) at which that parent and the minor children can be reached.**
- Neither parent shall travel with the minor children outside Arizona for longer than ____ days without the prior written consent of the other parent or order of the court.**

D. HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: The holiday schedule takes priority over the regular time-sharing schedule as described above. Check the box(es) that apply and indicate the years of the holiday access/Parenting time schedule.

Holiday	Even Years				Odd Years				
<input type="checkbox"/> New Year's Eve	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Year's Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Vacation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Halloween	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hanukkah	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Eve	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Break	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/> Child's Birthday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother's Day will be celebrated with the Mother every year.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Father's Day will be celebrated with the Father every year.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Each parent may have the children on his or her birthday.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Three-day weekends which include Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, the children will remain in the care of the parent who has the minor children for the weekend.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Holidays (Describe the other holidays and the arrangement) :								

Telephone Contact: Each parent may have telephone contact with the minor children during the children's normal waking hours, **OR:** (Explain) _____

Other (Explain) : _____

E. PARENTAL ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMATION: Under Arizona law (A.R.S. §25-403.06), unless otherwise provided by court order or law, on reasonable request, both parents are entitled to have equal access to documents and other information concerning the minor children's education and physical, mental, moral and emotional health including medical, school, police, court and other records. A person who does not comply with a reasonable request for these records shall reimburse the requesting parent for court costs and attorney fees incurred by that parent to make the other parent obey this request. A parent who attempts to restrict the release of documents or information by the custodian of the records without a prior court order is subject to legal sanctions.

F. EDUCATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:

- Both parents have the right to participate in school conferences, events and activities, and the right to consult with teachers and other school personnel.
- Both parents will make major educational decisions together. (optional) If the parents do not reach agreement, then:

OR

- Major educational decisions will be made by Mother Father after consulting other parent.

G. MEDICAL AND DENTAL ARRANGEMENTS:

- Both parents have the right to authorize emergency medical treatment, if needed, and the right to consult with physicians and other medical practitioners. Both parents agree to advise the other parent immediately of any emergency medical/dental care sought for the minor children, to cooperate on health matters concerning the children and to keep one another reasonably informed. Both parents agree to keep each other informed as to names, addresses and telephone numbers of all medical/dental care providers.
- Both parents will make major medical decisions together, except for emergency situations as noted above. (optional) If the parents do not reach an agreement, then: _____

OR

- Major medical/dental decisions will be made by Mother Father after consulting other parent.

H. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ARRANGEMENTS: (Choose ONE)

- Each parent may take the minor children to a church or place of worship of his or her choice during the time that the minor children is/are in his or her care.
- Both parents agree that the minor children may be instructed in the _____ faith.
- Both parents agree that religious arrangements are not applicable to this plan.

I. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

- NOTIFY OTHER PARENT OF ADDRESS CHANGE.** Each parent will inform the other parent of any change of address and/or phone number in advance **OR** within _____ days of the change.
- NOTIFY OTHER PARENT OF EMERGENCY.** Both parents agree that each parent will promptly inform the other parent of any emergency or other important event that involves the minor children

- TALK TO OTHER PARENT ABOUT EXTRA ACTIVITIES.** Each parent will consult and agree with the other parent regarding any extra activity that affects the minor children's access to the other parent.
- ASK OTHER PARENT IF HE/SHE WANTS TO TAKE CARE OF CHILDREN.** Each parent agrees to consider the other parent as care-provider for the minor children before making other arrangements.
- OBTAIN WRITTEN CONSENT BEFORE MOVING.** Neither parent will move with the minor children out of the Phoenix metropolitan area without prior written consent of the other parent, or a court ordered Parenting Plan. **A.R.S. 25-408 (B)**
- COMMUNICATE.** Each parent agrees that all communications regarding the minor children will be between the parents and that they will **not** use the minor children to convey information or to set up parenting time changes.
- METHOD OF COMMUNICATION.** Each parent agrees to use the following means of communication:
_____.
- FREQUENCY OF COMMUNICATION.** Each parent agrees to communicate regarding the child(ren) on a regular basis. That communication schedule will be:

and will be by the following methods: Phone Email Other
- PRAISE OTHER PARENT.** Each parent agrees to encourage love and respect between the minor children and the other parent, and neither parent shall do anything that may hurt the other parent's relationship with the minor children
- COOPERATE AND WORK TOGETHER.** Both parents agree to exert their best efforts to work cooperatively in future plans consistent with the best interests of the minor children and to amicably resolve such disputes as may arise.
- NOTIFY OTHER PARENT OF PROBLEMS WITH TIME-SHARING AHEAD OF TIME.** If either parent is unable to follow through with the time-sharing arrangements involving the minor child(ren), that parent will notify the other parent as soon as possible.
- PARENTING PLAN.** Both parents agree that if either parent moves out of the area and returns later, they will use the most recent ***"Parenting Plan/Access Agreement"*** in place before the move.

MEDIATION. If the parents are unable to reach a mutual agreement regarding a legal change to their parenting orders, they may request mediation through the court or a private mediator of their choice.

NOTICE: DO NOT DEVIATE FROM PLAN UNTIL DISPUTE IS RESOLVED.

Both parents are advised that while a dispute is being resolved, neither parent shall deviate from this Parenting Plan, or act in such a way that is inconsistent with the terms of this agreement.

Once this Plan has been made an order of the Court, if either parent disobeys the court order related to parenting time with the children, the other parent may submit court papers to request enforcement. See the Self-Service Center packets "To Make Someone Obey a Court Order" for help.

J. PART 2 SIGNATURE OF ONE OR BOTH PARENTS (as instructed on page 1)

Signature of Mother: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Father: _____ Date: _____

PART 3: STATEMENT REGARDING CONTACT WITH SEX OFFENDERS AND PERSONS CONVICTED OF DANGEROUS CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN.

According to A.R.S. §25-403.05, a child's parent or custodian must immediately notify the other parent or custodian if the person knows that a convicted or registered sex offender or someone who has been convicted of a dangerous crime against children may have access to the child.

The parent or custodian must provide notice by first class mail, return receipt requested, by electronic means to an electronic mail address that the recipient provided to the parent or custodian for notification purposes or by another form of communication accepted by the court.

According to A.R.S. § 13-705 (P) (1), "Dangerous crime against children" means any of the following that is committed against a minor who is under fifteen years of age:

- (a) Second degree murder.
- (b) Aggravated assault resulting in serious physical injury or involving the discharge, use or threatening exhibition of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.
- (c) Sexual assault.
- (d) Molestation of a child.
- (e) Sexual conduct with a minor.
- (f) Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor.
- (g) Sexual exploitation of a minor.
- (h) Child abuse as prescribed in section 13-3623, subsection A, paragraph 1.
- (i) Kidnapping.
- (j) Sexual abuse.
- (k) Taking a child for the purpose of prostitution as prescribed in section 13-3206.
- (l) Child prostitution as prescribed in section 13-3212.
- (m) Involving or using minors in drug offenses.
- (n) Continuous sexual abuse of a child.
- (o) Attempted first degree murder.
- (p) Sex trafficking.
- (q) Manufacturing methamphetamine under circumstances that cause physical injury to a minor.
- (r) Bestiality as prescribed in section 13-1411, subsection A, paragraph 2.
- (s) Luring a minor for sexual exploitation.
- (t) Aggravated luring a minor for sexual exploitation.
- (u) Unlawful age misrepresentation.

PART 3 SIGNATURE OF ONE OR BOTH PARTIES (as instructed on page 1)

I/We have read, understand, and agree to abide by the requirements of A.R.S. § 25-403.05 concerning notification of other parent or custodian if someone convicted of dangerous crime against children may have access to the child.

Signature of Mother: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Father: _____ **Date:** _____

PART 4: JOINT LEGAL DECISION MAKING (CUSTODY) AGREEMENT

(IF APPLICABLE):

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Arizona Law (A.R.S. § 25-403.03) states that joint legal decision-making authority (custody) shall NOT be awarded if there has been "a history of significant domestic violence".

- Domestic Violence has **not** occurred between the parties, **OR**
- Domestic Violence **has** occurred but it has not been "significant" or has been committed by both parties.*

B. DUI or DRUG CONVICTIONS:

- Neither party has been convicted of driving under the influence or a drug offense within the past 12 months, OR
- One of the parties HAS been convicted of driving under the influence or a drug offense within the past 12 months but the parties feel Joint Legal Decision-Making (Custody) is in the best interest of the children.*

*** IF THERE HAS BEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR A DUI OR DRUG CONVICTION:
Attach an extra page explaining why Joint Legal Decision-Making (Custody) is still in the best interest of the children.**

C. JOINT LEGAL DECISION MAKING (CUSTODY) AGREEMENT: If the parents have agreed to joint legal decision making (custody), the following will apply, subject to approval by the Judge:

1. **REVIEW:** The parents agree to review the terms of this agreement and make any necessary or desired changes every _____ month(s) from the date of this document.

2. **CRITERIA.** Our joint legal decision making (custody) agreement meets the criteria required by Arizona law A.R.S. § 25-403.02, as listed below:
 - a. The best interests of the minor children are served;
 - b. Each parent's rights and responsibilities for personal care of the minor children and for decisions in education, health care and religious training are designated in this Plan;
 - c. A practical schedule of the parenting time for the minor children, including holidays and school vacations is included in the Plan;
 - d. A procedure for the exchange(s) of the child(ren) including location and responsibility for transportation.
 - e. The Plan includes a procedure for periodic review;
 - f. The Plan includes a procedure by which proposed changes, disputes and alleged breaches may be mediated or resolved
 - g. A procedure for communicating with each other about the child, including methods and frequency.

PART 4 SIGNATURES OF BOTH PARENTS REQUESTING JOINT LEGAL DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY (CUSTODY) (as instructed on page 1)

Signature of Mother: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Father: _____ **Date:** _____