

Separation & Divorce: Things to Consider

Parenting Plan & Access to Children

- ___ Child custody, legal
 - ___ Child custody, physical
 - ___ Access (visitation) with non-custodial parent
 - ___ schedule
 - ___ who will pick up and drop off
 - ___ summer vacations
 - ___ birthdays, holidays
 - ___ school vacations during the year
 - ___ traveling with children
 - ___ telephone contact with other parent
 - ___ notice of changes in schedule
 - ___ illness of children/parent
 - ___ flexibility of schedule
 - ___ Grandparent visitation
 - ___ Visitation with stepchildren & other family members
 - ___ Discipline
 - ___ Religious upbringing of children
 - ___ Medical decisions for children
 - ___ Other issues (e.g. nutrition, children's special needs, etc.)
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___ Decision making - how will it get done, what if there is an impasse, how will information be shared?

___ Relocation of either parent - notification, renegotiation

Financial Issues Relating to Children

___ Child support

- Health insurance for children
- Dental insurance for children
- Uninsured health care costs
- Private school/child care costs
- College education
- Claiming children as dependents for income tax purposes
- Residence in the marital homestead
- Beneficiaries of life insurance policies

Communication between Parents

- Preferred method (in person, phone, email, etc.)
- Rules of Communication
- Sharing medical and school information
- Other issues (nutrition

Property Issues

- Equity in homestead
- Other real property
- Home furnishings
- Business assets
- Professional practices
- Professional degrees
- Retirement benefits (pensions, IRAs, 401(k) plans)
- Motor vehicles
- Recreational vehicles
- Personal property
- Savings accounts

- ___ Stocks, bonds, and funds
- ___ Compensation for contributions as homemaker
- ___ Hidden assets
- ___ Debts

Spousal Support Issues

- ___ Entitlement to support
- ___ How much?
- ___ How long?
- ___ Continued health care coverage through COBRA

Other Issues

- ___ Domestic violence
- ___ Order of protection
- ___ Child abuse
- ___ Parental kidnapping
- ___ Restoration of maiden name
- ___ Post-divorce non-financial support
- ___ Attorney's fees and expenses