

PARENTING PLAN

GENERAL COMMENTS

In the State of Georgia, for any case in which the Court must decide the issue of custody, the parties must submit a *Parenting Plan*.

Please read the instructions and form very carefully; errors in your paperwork can have serious consequences for your case. Incomplete, or improperly filled out forms may delay or prevent a decision. **You must follow the law and complete every paragraph that applies to your case.** Do not fill out paragraphs that do not apply to your case. Your papers should remain in the same order as they appear in this packet.

This *Parenting Plan* shall be filed at the time of any *Petition* or *Answer*, and in any event, not less than ten (10) days before any final hearing, and not less than fifteen (15) days before any final hearing. A copy must be served to the opposing party or their attorney, if they have one.

You may come up with your own *Parenting Plan*, but keep in mind that any *Parenting Plan* must meet certain legal requirements.

Custody cases can be very complicated. The only person allowed to help you in the preparation of these forms is a licensed attorney. **State Law O.C.G.A. § 15-19-51 forbids court personnel to give legal advice.**

YOU MAY NEED AN ATTORNEY IF:

- The case is contested OR an attorney represents the other party
- You cannot locate the other party to serve them with papers
- You or the other party are in the military and may be deployed
- You or your children are victims of family violence

HELPFUL HINTS

The parties in a lawsuit are known as **Petitioner**: the person filing the initial suit (may also be referred to as “Plaintiff”) and **Respondent**: the other person (may also be referred to as “Defendant”).

Physical custody refers to the parent with whom the child lives. **Legal custody** refers to the parent who makes decisions about the child’s school, healthcare, etc. Both types of custody can be held by one parent solely or shared by both parents jointly. **Split Custody** occurs when parents with multiple children have sole or primary physical custody of different children, “splitting” up the siblings.

An **uncontested plan** is one in which the parties can work together on the issues to submit a *Parenting Plan* together. A **contested plan** is one in which the parties either have not spoken about the issues or are unlikely to agree. In this situation, one party will propose a *Parenting Plan*, and the other party will have a chance to respond.

When filling out your *Parenting Plan*, bear in mind: the age of your children and their school and activity schedules, your work and activity schedule, and the goals you have for your children and your relationship with them.

According to O.C.G.A. §19-9-3, there is no presumed right of custody for either party. Only a judge can decide issues of custody, not a jury. When deciding custody, the Court applies the standard of “**the best interests of the child.**” Factors a judge may consider include, but are not limited to:

- The love, affection, bonding, and emotional ties between each parent and the child
- The love, affection, bonding, and emotional ties between siblings
- The ability of each parent to love and nurture the child and to continue the child’s education
- Each parent’s knowledge and familiarity of the child’s needs
- The ability of each parent to meet the child’s needs for food, clothing, and basic care
- The ability of each parent to provide a safe and stable home environment
- The importance of continuity in the child’s life
- Each parent’s extended family and support systems in the community
- Each parent’s physical and mental health
- Each parent’s involvement in the child’s education and extracurricular activities
- Employment schedules
- The home, school, and community record of the child and any special health or educational needs
- Each parent’s past parental responsibilities
- Each parent’s ability and willingness to encourage a positive relationship between the child and the other parent
- Any recommendation by a court appointed counselor or Guardian ad Litem
- Any history of family violence
- Any evidence of substance abuse by either parent

INSTRUCTIONS

Caption (Heading)

If you are filing the *Parenting Plan* with a *Petition* or have already been listed as the Petitioner in the action, fill in your full name as the Petitioner and the other party's full name as the Respondent. OR if you are filing the *Parenting Plan* with an *Answer* or have already been listed as the Respondent in the action, fill in your full name as the Respondent and the other Party's full name as the Petitioner.

If you have already been assigned a case number, enter it on the line labeled Civil Action Number. Otherwise, leave the line blank, and the Clerk will assign a number to your case.

The first page has three sections:

The first section asks whether the submitted *Parenting Plan* is contested.
CHECK ONE (1) BOX

- Check the first box if the plan is uncontested.
- Check the second box if the plan is contested.
- Check the third box if the plan was prepared by a judge.

NOTE: There are additional instructions and requirements for contested plans. See the second page of the *Parenting Plan* for more information.

The second section asks whether you have an existing *Parenting Plan*.
CHECK ONE (1) BOX

- Check the first box if this is a new plan.
- Check the second box if you and the other party have an existing plan which you are asking to change. Enter the date of the initial original Parenting Plan in the space provided.
- Check the third box if you and the other party have an existing court order which you are asking to change. Enter the date of the initial order in the space provided.

The third section identifies the children who are the subject of this *Parenting Plan*.

- Enter each child's full name in the chart provided. For privacy reasons, only provide the year of their birth.

I. CUSTODY AND DECISION MAKING

Legal Custody CHECK ONE (1) BOX

- Check the first box if the Petitioner will have sole legal custody.
- Check the second box if the Respondent will have sole legal custody.
- Check the third box if both parties will share joint legal custody.

Primary Physical Custody MAKE A SELECTION FOR EACH CHILD

- Write each child's name in the spaces provided. Then, for each child check whether the Petitioner, Respondent, or both parties will have primary physical custody.

NOTE: The party with primary physical custody may be referred to as the **custodial parent**, and the other party may be called the **non-custodial parent**.

NOTE: If you are asking for split custody, write a detailed statement explaining why the custody arrangement is in the best interests of each child and all the children, collectively. Include any psychological evaluations, recommendations of a Guardian ad Litem, and/or elections of a child over the age of 14. Attach the statement to the *Parenting Plan*.

Day-to-Day Decision Making: Each parent shall be responsible for the day-to-day care of the children whenever the children reside with, or are in the physical custody of, that parent. This includes emergency decisions that affect the health and safety of the children. You do not need to make a selection for this Paragraph.

Major Decision Making: Whenever possible, parties should work together to make major decisions. If cooperation is impossible, this Paragraph will help determine how to "break the tie."

MAKE A SELECTION FOR EACH SITUATION

If additional situations apply to your family that have not been addressed by the form, enter them in the spaces provided and make a selection for each situation.

II. PARENTING TIME

This section describes the minimum amount of parenting time a party is entitled to under this *Parenting Plan*. This may also be referred to as **visitation**. The schedule may appear strict; the parties can agree to any time sharing arrangements that are in the best interests of the children. This *Plan* will be in place in the event that parties cannot mutually agree.

If one party has primary physical custody, this section applies to the non-custodial parent. If the parties share joint physical custody, you must decide which party this section concerns. Check the box next to the appropriate party.

The first section addresses weekend parenting time. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- (a) Check box (a) if the party should have parenting time on the first and third weekend of the month.
- (b) Check box (b) if the party should have parenting time on the first, third, and fifth weekend of the month.
- (c) Check box (c) if the party should have parenting time on the second and fourth weekend of the month.
- (d) Check box (d) if the party should have parenting time every other weekend. To complete the fourth box, enter the date the parenting time will begin.
- (e) Check box (e) if the party should have parenting time on one weekend day. To complete the fifth box, enter the day of the week in the space provided. Next enter the start and end times, making sure to check the box next to a.m. or p.m. for each time.
- (f) Check box (f) if you wish to use your own arrangement or provide additional information. To complete the sixth box, enter the information in the space provided.

The second section addresses weekday parenting time. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- 1. Check box (1) if the party should not have weekday parenting time.
- 2. Check box (2) if weekday parenting time should occur once a week. To complete this selection, enter the day of the week in the space provided.
- 3. Check box (3) if weekday parenting time should occur every other week. To complete this selection, enter the day of the week in the space provided.
- 4. Check box (4) if weekday parenting time should occur twice per week. To complete this selection, enter the days of the week in the spaces provided.
- 5. Check box (5) if you want to use your own arrangement or provide additional information. To complete this selection, enter the information in the space provided.

You must define the start and end times for weekend parenting time. Enter the start time in the space provided, making sure to check the box next to a.m. or p.m. Next, check the box next to the day of the week that begins the weekend. Then, enter the end time in the space provided, making sure to check the box next to a.m. or p.m. Finally, check the box next to the day of the week that ends the weekend.

You must define the start and end times for weekday parenting time. Enter the start and end times in the spaces provided, making sure to check the box next to a.m. or p.m. for each selection.

Enter the date the parenting schedule begins in the spaces provided.

Fall Vacation: This Paragraph states that the schedule above will apply unless you would like to make an exception during fall vacation.

- If you would like to vary the day-to-day schedule, enter the information in the spaces provided.

Winter Vacation

- Check the box next to the party who will have parenting time during the first half of winter vacation.
- Next, enter the end date and time of that party's winter vacation parenting time in the spaces provided, making sure to check the box next to a.m. or p.m.
- Then, decide whether the party will have parenting time for the first half of winter vacation in odd-numbered years, even-numbered years, or every year. Check the box next to your selection.
- Finally, enter the end date and time of the second half of winter vacation, making sure to check a.m. or p.m.

If you would like to come up with your own arrangement for winter vacation, you are not required to make any selections in the first part of the Paragraph. Instead, enter the information in the space provided.

Spring Vacation: This Paragraph states that the schedule above will apply unless you would like to make an exception during spring vacation.

- If you would like to vary the day-to-day schedule, enter the information in the spaces provided.

Summer Vacation: This Paragraph states that the schedule above will apply unless you would like to make an exception during summer vacation.

- If you would like to vary the day-to-day schedule, enter the information in the spaces provided.
- Enter the date of the deadline for parents to communicate each year to confirm school breaks. Then, enter the date of the deadline for parents to confirm summer parenting time.

Special Days and Holidays

- For each holiday in the table, check one (1) box to show whether the Petitioner will have parenting time on even-numbered years, odd-numbered years, or every year.
- Check one (1) box to show whether the Respondent will have parenting time on even-numbered years, odd-numbered years, or every year.
- Enter the start and stop times in the spaces provided.

NOTE: Make sure that your selections do not conflict.

Schedule Conflicts: This Paragraph determines how conflicts between the schedule in the table above and extended/ summer parenting time will be resolved. For example, you may have selected that the Petitioner will have parenting time on their birthday every year, but that date falls during the Respondent's summer parenting time.

CHECK ONE (1) BOX

- (a) Check box (a) if the holiday schedule will be observed.
- (b) Check box (b) if extended parenting time will be uninterrupted.
- (c) Check box (c) if you wish to use your own arrangement or provide additional information. To complete this selection, enter the information in the space provided.

You must decide whether a holiday visitation will include the immediately preceding or immediately following weekend. CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- (a) Check box (a) if holidays that fall on Friday include the following Saturday and Sunday.
- (b) Check box (b) if holidays that fall on Monday include the preceding Saturday and Sunday.
- (c) Check box (c) if you wish to use your own arrangement or provide additional information. To complete this selection, enter the information in the space provided.

Transportation Arrangements COMPLETE EACH SECTION

- In the spaces provided, explain how the parties will exchange the children for pick-up and drop-off.
- If one party has to travel long distances for parenting time, check the box next to the party who will pay for the cost of transportation. To complete this section, enter your definition of long distance in the space provided.
- Enter any additional information about special circumstances affecting transportation in the space provided. This may include a parent without a license or other approved drivers.
- Determine the length of time a party may be late without proper notification before giving up parenting time for that period. Enter the number of minutes in the space provided.
- The next section states that a party may seek to change the terms of this *Parenting Plan* if the other party repeatedly causes delays in exchanging the children. Write your definition of repeatedly causing a delay in the space provided.

Relocation: Determine the number of miles away the other party may move before they are required to notify the other party. Enter the number of miles in the space provided. To complete this Paragraph, check one (1) box next to the number of days a party has to give notice of relocation.

Communication Access: This Paragraph describes how a party may communicate with the children when they are in the custody of the other party.

- (a) Check box (a) if there shall be unrestricted phone access during reasonable hours.
- (b) Check box (b) if you only want to allow a certain number of calls per day or week. In the spaces provided, enter the number of phone calls and the time limit for each call. In the final space, enter the times of day phone calls are allowed.
- (c) Check box (c) if you would like to come up with your own arrangement or provide additional information.

Other Parenting Time Provisions: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- (a) Check box (a) if a party should notify the other of any change in contact information.
- (b) Check box (b) if you want to add any information about childcare, such as: age before the children can be left alone, appropriate caregivers, etc. Enter the information in the space provided.
- (c) Check box (c) if a party should consult with the other before scheduling activities that may impact the other party's parenting time.
- (d) Check box (d) if you would like to come up with your own arrangement or provide additional information.

III. ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMATION

This section states that in order to facilitate an ongoing relationship with the children, both parties must have access to all of the children's records and information.

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- (a) Check box (a) to propose any limitations on sharing records with the other party. Enter the proposed limitations in the space provided.
- (b) Check box (b) if a party should notify the children's school every year to inform them that both parents should receive all records and reports. Check the box next to the party who shall contact the school.
- (c) Check box (c) if each party should promptly share any information received through the children regarding their records.
- (d) Check box (d) if you would like to come up with your own arrangement or provide additional information.

IV. MODIFICATION

This section addresses the ways parties may make changes to the *Parenting Plan* over time.

NOTE: Custody can only be modified by the Court.

- Check the box if the parties will attempt mediation or other conflict resolution methods before involving the Court in disagreements.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section allows you to notify the Court of any circumstances that have not been covered by the form. If you have special considerations, write about them on a separate sheet of paper and attach them to the *Parenting Plan*.

VI. PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

O.C.G.A. §19-9-1 requires that both parties acknowledge the importance of a close and continuation relationship with the children, and that the children's needs with change as they grow. By signing the Parenting Plan in front of a notary public, you swear that the information you provided is true and correct.

DO NOT sign until you are in the presence of a notary. If this *Parenting Plan* is proposed by one party, leave the other party's signature block blank.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Petitioner,
and

Respondent.

Civil Action No.: _____

PARENTING PLAN

[Choose one (1)]

- This plan is uncontested. The parties have agreed to the terms of this plan, and this information has been furnished by both parties to meet the requirements of O.C.G.A. §19-9-1. The parties agree on the terms of this plan. By signing this plan, the parties affirm the accuracy of the information provided.
- This plan is contested. This plan has been proposed by _____ [Name], and the information has been furnished to meet the requirements of O.C.G.A. §19-9-1. By signing this plan, the proposing party affirms the accuracy of the information provided.
- This plan has been prepared by a judge.

[Choose one (1)]

This plan

- is a new plan.
- modifies an existing *Parenting Plan* dated _____ [Date].
- modifies an existing Order dated _____ [Date].

| Child's Name | Year of Birth |
|--------------|---------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

This *Parenting Plan* shall be filed at the time of any *Petition* or *Answer*, and in any event, not less than ten (10) days before any final hearing, and not less than fifteen (15) days before any final hearing. A copy must be served to the opposing party or their attorney, if they have one.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSED PLAN WHEN CUSTODY OR VISITATION IS CONTESTED

1. Each party shall attach a schedule of their own employment hours for the last year and as far into the future as can be reasonably predicted.
2. Attach a schedule of the hours children will be in daycare. Identify the provider, including extended family or support group (neighbors, church, etc.). If the children are in school, provide separate schedules for the school year and summer vacation.
3. Attach documentation for any medical conditions of the children or the parent that are relevant to the custody or visitation decision.
4. If proposing home schooling or other special education provisions, attach credentials of the proposed educator or institution.
5. Attach a schedule for the children's proposed school district or private school as far in the future as the district provides.
6. If proposing split custody, attach a detailed explanation of how split custody will be in the best interests of each child and the children, collectively. Include any Guardian ad Litem (GAL), psychological, or other recommendations, and any elections of children over 14.
7. If restricted visitation is sought, attach a detailed statement of reasons for the request, including but not limited to: persons, places, activities, or other matters from which visitation should be restricted. Include any supervision or enforcement provisions and how the cost will be divided.
8. Each party shall attach an affidavit affirming or denying the existence of any criminal convictions, family violence orders, and child welfare (DFCS) investigations in which they are involved. If any such exist, identify every criminal conviction, family violence order, and DFCS investigation or safety plan.

I. CUSTODY AND DECISION MAKING

Definitions:

Physical custody refers to the parent with whom the children live.

Legal custody refers to the parent who makes decisions about the children.

Legal Custody: [Choose one (1)]

- with the Petitioner
- with the Respondent
- Joint

Primary Physical Custody: [Make a selection for each child]

| Name | Petitioner | Respondent | Joint |
|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Day-to-Day Decision Making:

Each parent shall make decisions regarding the day-to-day care of a child while the child is residing with that parent, including any emergency decisions affecting the health or safety of the child.

Major Decision Making: [Make a selection for each situation]

The parties shall consult each other and attempt to reach consensus on major decisions.

Should they be unable to reach consensus, final decisions will be made as follows:

| | Petitioner | Respondent |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-Emergency Healthcare | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Religious Upbringing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Extracurricular Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

II. PARENTING TIME

If the parties cannot otherwise agree, during the term of this *Parenting Plan*, the non-custodial parent, or in joint custodial agreements the Petitioner/ Respondent, shall have at a minimum the following parenting time:

[Check all that apply]

- (a) First and third weekend of each month
- (b) First, third, and fifth weekend of each month
- (c) Second and fourth weekend of each month
- (d) Every other weekend, starting on _____, 20_____ [Date].
- (e) Each _____ starting at ____ a.m./ p.m. and ending at ____ a.m./ p.m.
- (f) Other:

Weekday times include:

[Check all that apply]

- (1) None
- (2) Every _____ evening
- (3) Every other _____ evening during the week prior to a non-visitation weekend.
- (4) Every _____ and _____ evening
- (5) Other:

- For the purposes of this *Parenting Plan*, a weekend will start at ____ a.m./ p.m. on Thursday/ Friday/ Saturday/ Other: _____ and end at ____ a.m./ p.m. on Sunday/ Monday/ Other: _____.
- Weekday time will begin at ____ a.m./ p.m. and will end at ____ p.m. when the children return to school the next day.
- This parenting schedule begins on _____, 20_____ [Date] or on the date of the Court's Order.

[Complete each section]

Fall Vacation

The day-to-day schedule shall apply except as follows:

beginning on _____, 20_____ [Date].

Winter Vacation

The Petitioner/ Respondent shall have the children for the first part of vacation from the day and time school is dismissed until December _____ at _____ a.m./ p.m. in

odd numbered years/ even numbered years/ every year.

The other parent will have the children for the second part of vacation from the day and time indicated above until _____ at _____ a.m./ p.m. The parties shall alternate first and second periods each year. OR the parties have chosen a different winter vacation plan:

Spring Vacation

The day-to-day schedule shall apply except as follows:

beginning on _____, 20_____ [Date].

Summer Vacation

The day-to-day schedule shall apply except as follows:

beginning on _____, 20_____ [Date].

Note: Parents will confer with each other by _____ [Date] each year to confirm school breaks/ vacations and by _____ [Date] to determine summer parenting schedule.

Special Days and Holidays

[Indicate whether the children will be with the parent on ODD or EVEN years or EVERY year]

| Holiday | With Petitioner | With Respondent | Start/ Stop Time |
|-----------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| Martin Luther King Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Mother's Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Father's Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| July Fourth | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Labor Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Halloween | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Thanksgiving Day and Friday | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Child's Birthday | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Free School Days | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Petitioner's Birthday | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Respondent's Birthday | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |
| Religious Holidays | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | <input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year | |

Schedule Conflicts

When holiday parenting times conflict with extended/ summer parenting time:

[Choose one (1)]

- (a) Holiday schedule will be observed
- (b) Extended visitation will be uninterrupted
- (c) Other: _____

If there is conflict between the regular schedule and the holiday schedule, the holiday schedule will prevail.

For the purposes of this *Parenting Plan*, the holiday will start and end as follows:

[Check all that apply]

- (a) Holidays that fall on Friday will include the following Saturday and Sunday
- (b) Holidays that fall on a Monday will include the preceding Saturday and Sunday
- (c) Other: _____

Transportation Arrangements

[Complete each section]

Exchanging the children between parents shall take place as follows:

Payment of long distance transportation costs, if applicable, will be paid by:

Petitioner/ Respondent/ both equally. Long distance for the purpose of transportation is defined as: _____

Other transportation arrangements (ex: disabled parent, parent without valid driver’s license, other approved drivers, etc.):

Transportation Arrangements, continued

Should the parent picking up the children exceed a _____ minute grace period without proper notification or alerting the other parent by phone of an unavoidable breakdown or delay, the parenting time for that period is forfeited.

Should either party repeatedly cause a delay by not having children prepared for exchange or being late for pickup or return, a modification of parenting time may be sought. Repeatedly causing a delay is defined as:

Relocation

If either parent decides to relocate more than _____ miles away from the other parent’s home, the moving parent will give the other parent written notice of the intent to relocate no less than 30 days/ 60 days/ 90 days/ 180 days prior to the date of moving.

Communication Access

[Check all that apply]

The parents agree that when the children reside with one parent, that the other parent will have the right to unimpeded telephone conversations with the children as follows:

- (a) Unrestricted telephone access during reasonable hours
- (b) _____ telephone calls to the children per day/ week. The duration of each call shall not exceed _____ minutes. Calls may take place within the following times:

- (c) Other provisions for telephone/ e-mail access:

Other Parenting Time Provisions

[Check all that apply]

- (a) Each parent shall promptly notify the other parent of a change of address, phone number, or cell phone number so that the other parent may: exercise their parenting time, notify the other parent as needed, and reach the children while they are in the other parent’s household.
- (b) When making childcare arrangements while the children are with each parent, the following apply (ex: age before children will be left alone, appropriate caregivers, right of first refusal to provide care, etc.):

- (c) Parents will consult with each other before scheduling any activity that will impact time the other parent spends with children.
- (d) Other:

Restrictions to Parenting Time

[Check all that apply]

- (a) Supervised parenting time shall apply during the day-to-day schedule as follows:
Place: _____
Person supervising/ organizing: _____
Responsibility for cost: Petitioner/ Respondent/ Both equally
Any transition to alter supervised parenting would require:

- (b) Due to past instances of family violence, the address of the children and victim of family violence shall be kept confidential. The protected parent shall promptly notify the other parent, through a third party, of any change in contact information necessary to conduct visitation.

III. ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMATION

[Check all that apply]

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §19-9-1(b)(1)(D), both parents are entitled to all of the children's records and information including but not limited to: education, health, extracurricular activities, and religious communication. Designation as a non-custodial parent does not affect a parent's right to equal access of these records.

(a) Proposed limitations to access rights:

(b) Petitioner/ Respondent will notify school authorities where children are enrolled each year to list both parents to receive all notifications and reports.

(c) Each parent shall promptly notify the other parent of any information received through the children concerning parent meetings, reports, and school activities in which the children may be engaged or interested.

(d) Other information sharing provisions:

IV. MODIFICATION

Over time, as the children and family circumstances change, parties may agree in writing to vary the parenting schedule. Such altered agreement shall not be a binding court order and shall not constitute a defense for contempt unless agreed upon in writing. Custody shall only be modified by the Court.

Should parents disagree about this *Parenting Plan* or wish to modify it, they must make a good faith effort to resolve any issues between them.

Prior to involving the Court in resolving disagreements, parties will attempt further mediation, consultation with a family counselor or child specialist, or:

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

If necessary, attach an addendum detailing any special circumstances of which the Court should be aware (ex: health issues, educational issues, etc.).

VI. PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below, the party or parties acknowledge that:

- A close and continuing parent-child relationship and continuity in the children’s life will be in the children’s best interests;
- The children’s needs will grow and change as the children mature. A good faith effort has been made to take this growth into account to minimize the need for future modifications;
- The information provided is true and correct.

Petitioner, *Self-Represented*

[Name]

Sworn and affirmed to me, this
_____ day of _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires _____
(Notary Seal)

Respondent, *Self-Represented*

[Name]

Sworn and affirmed to me, this
_____ day of _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires _____
(Notary Seal)