

## *For Moms & Dads Parenting Apart*

# Topics We May Need to Discuss

### 1. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS CUSTODY:

Custody means 2 things:

- 1- Where child/ren live, known as residency – also referred to as “primary residence” or “physical residence”
- 2- Who makes important decisions and has access to records – also referred to as “legal” or “decision making”

#### BASIC CHOICES FOR CUSTODY:

Sole (Full) custody - decision making by one parent, residence with one parent  
Joint custody - shared decision making & access to records, but reside mostly with one parent  
Shared custody - shared decision making, annual parenting time divided exactly 50/50  
Split custody - children divided into different homes, e.g., twin children split into two homes

### 2. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS ACCESS (PARENTING TIME, VISITATION)

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ Weekends                 | ✓ Summer vacations        |
| ✓ Weekdays                 | ✓ Our birthdays           |
| ✓ Holidays / long weekends | ✓ Child/ren’s birthdays   |
| ✓ School recesses          | ✓ Other special occasions |

### 3. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS ACTIVITIES

What activities do our children like to do? What activities need consent of both parents? What activities have they been involved in? Who will pay? What happens if there’s a scheduled event our child wants to attend and it’s during the non-custodial parent’s time? When will our child/ren make decisions?

### 4. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTIONS and CHANGES

What happens if there’s foreign and/or out-of-state travel? What about relocating with children, when is the other parent notified about intentions to travel?

### 5. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS ACCESS TO RECORDS / SCHOOLS / PROFESSIONALS

Who will bring the child/ren to doctors, dentists, who makes appointments, how do we notify one another? Who will be notified of school functions, who will attend parent-teacher conferences?

### 6. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS HOW WE WILL REACH ONE ANOTHER

What info do we share and how do we contact one another? /Do we require confirmation that a message was received? We need to share addresses, landline and cell phone numbers, email addresses. We need emergency contact info.

### 7. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS WHEN WE WILL REACH ONE ANOTHER

Notice of changes – how do we notify one another that we may need to change a scheduled visit?  
how much notice do we give?

How and when is information regarding illnesses and accidents shared?

How often will each parent speak on the phone with the child when apart? What times? What happens if the parent with the child/ren cannot be reached? Will the child/ren have cell phones? SKYPE? Who pays?

### 8. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS GRANDPARENTS / EXTENDED FAMILY TIME w/CHILD/REN

### 9. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS SUPPORTING THE CHILD/REN FINANCIALLY

Will we open a child support case? Will the money come directly from the non-custodial parent’s paycheck? Who will pay for child care expenses? Who will provide the child care? Who provides insurance? What about elective procedures, dentists, therapists, prescriptions, glasses? Who will pay the co-pay?

### 10. WE MAY NEED TO DISCUSS HOW WE WILL HANDLE FUTURE DISPUTES

Will we try mediation first?

Will we get attorneys? Who will pay legal fees?



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