

Sample Issues of Discussion

This is just a ***small sample*** of topics that are discussed in your parenting mediation. Your mediator will guide you through a comprehensive process that not only includes the sample subject areas, but through areas which are often left unaddressed and unresolved. Your final product will be a parenting agreement that is broad yet concise, covering not only what is contained in this partial list, but also the most challenging and conflict stimulating areas of child rearing.

TIME SHARING

- Time spent with each parent
 - Day-today schedule
 - Summer vacation
 - Holidays
 - Child care
- Relocating

CHILD SUPPORT

- Calculation
- Conditions of adjustment
- How paid

EDUCATION

- Areas of decision making authority
- Parental involvement/records
- College
 - Decisions
 - How funded?

MEDICAL AND INSURANCE

- On whose policy do the children go
 - Health and hospitalization
 - Dental/Orthodontia
 - Vision
 - Mental health

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

- Faith/denomination decision making
- Do the kids attend services?

EXPENSES

- Extracurricular activities
 - Areas of decision making authority
 - How activities are paid
- Medical
 - Decisions – Who makes the “tough” decision?
 - Copays, co-insurance, prescriptions – how paid?
 - Orthodontist – how paid?

PARENTAL COMMUNICATION, ETHICS, AND CHILD DISCIPLINE

MISCELLANEOUS

- Vacations and travel - Permissions/notifications
- Owning/operating firearms/cars/motorcycles/ATVs/boats
- New parental partners and how they interact with your child



REAL ESTATE

- Family residence
- Rental Property
- Vacation property – including timeshares
- Business/Investment property

PERSONAL PROPERTY

- Savings and bank accounts
- Stocks, bonds, other securities and investment accounts
- Government Pension Plans
- Deferred Compensation Plans
- IRAs, 401k, 403b, Defined Benefit Retirement type plans
- Stock Options, ESOPs
- Tax refunds
- Refunds due, amounts owed, back taxes
- Indemnification of one party on past joint returns
- Life Insurance Cash Value
- Cash value and face value if whole life; face value if term life
- Used to insure support obligations /amount(s) and duration
- Educational Accounts
- Collectibles, art, firearms, jewelry
- Club memberships, frequent flyer miles, season tickets, pets, etc.
- Household Items/furniture
- Vehicles – mileage and value, titling after assignment

BUSINESS & RELATED

- Asset values
- Business valuations

DEBTS

- Outstanding Loans (other than those already listed)
- Credit card debts (joint, individual?)
- Judgments due or pending lawsuits
- Past taxes owed

TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN

- Dependent exemption
- Child Tax Credit

COBRA – For Spouse if necessary

SPOUSAL SUPPORT

- Appropriateness – What are the future financial needs of each spouse?
- How Paid
- Monthly payments
- Amounts
- Date payable
- Duration
- Circumstances when increased, reduced, suspended, terminated; one-time cash settlement

