

LONG-DISTANCE PARENTING PLAN

This Long-Distance Parenting Plan (hereinafter "Plan") is entered into on this _____ day of _____, 20_____, by and between the undersigned parents, who desire to establish a comprehensive agreement regarding the custody, visitation, communication, and decision-making arrangements for their minor child(ren) despite living a significant geographic distance apart. This Plan is designed to promote the best interests of the child(ren) by providing stability, consistency, and clear guidelines for co-parenting.

I. PARENT INFORMATION

Parent 1 (Mother/Father): _____

Street Address: _____

Unit Number (if applicable): _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent 2 (Mother/Father): _____

Street Address: _____

Unit Number (if applicable): _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

II. CHILD(REN) INFORMATION

The minor child(ren) subject to this Plan are: Child 1:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Child 2:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Child 3:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

III. LEGAL CUSTODY (DECISION-MAKING)

The Parents shall share joint legal custody of the minor child(ren). This means that both Parents shall have equal rights and responsibilities to make decisions concerning the health, education, and welfare of the child(ren).

A. Major Decisions: Major decisions regarding the child(ren)'s education, non-emergency healthcare, religious upbringing, and extracurricular activities shall be made jointly by both Parents. Each Parent shall provide the other with timely and complete information regarding any proposed major decision and shall make a good faith effort to reach a mutual agreement.

B. Emergency Decisions: In the event of an emergency requiring immediate medical attention for the child(ren), the Parent with the child(ren) at the time shall have the authority to make necessary decisions without prior consultation with the other Parent. The Parent making such a decision shall notify the other Parent as soon as reasonably possible.

C. Information Sharing: Each Parent shall have full and complete access to the child(ren)'s medical, dental, school, and counseling records. Each Parent shall promptly provide the other Parent with copies of all significant reports, notices, and information received concerning the child(ren)'s health, education, and welfare.

IV. PHYSICAL CUSTODY AND RESIDENCY

A. Primary Residential Parent: For purposes of school enrollment and determining the child(ren)'s primary residence, Parent 1 (_____) shall be designated as the primary residential parent. The child(ren) shall reside primarily with Parent 1 during the school year.

B. Shared Physical Custody Philosophy: Despite the geographic distance, both Parents acknowledge

and agree to foster a shared physical custody philosophy, ensuring that the child(ren) maintain a strong and meaningful relationship with both Parents through regular and consistent visitation, communication, and involvement in their lives.

V. LONG-DISTANCE VISITATION SCHEDULE

The following visitation schedule shall be implemented to ensure regular contact between the child(ren) and the non-residential Parent.

A. School Year Visitation:

1. **Fall Break/Thanksgiving:** The child(ren) shall spend Fall Break/Thanksgiving with Parent 2 in odd-numbered years and with Parent 1 in even-numbered years.
2. **Winter Break/Christmas:** The child(ren) shall spend the first half of Winter Break/Christmas with Parent 1 and the second half with Parent 2 in odd-numbered years. In even-numbered years, the child(ren) shall spend the first half of Winter Break/Christmas with Parent 2 and the second half with Parent 1. The exact division of dates shall be agreed upon by the Parents by November 1st of each year.
3. **Spring Break:** The child(ren) shall spend Spring Break with Parent 2 in even-numbered years and with Parent 1 in odd-numbered years.

B. Summer Visitation:

The child(ren) shall spend six (6) consecutive weeks of summer vacation with Parent 2. The specific dates for summer visitation shall be determined by mutual agreement of the Parents by April 1st of each year, taking into consideration the child(ren)'s activities and school schedule. Parent 1 shall have the remaining summer vacation time with the child(ren).

C. Special Occasions:

1. **Child(ren)'s Birthdays:** On each child's birthday, the Parent who does not have physical custody of the child(ren) on that day shall be entitled to a reasonable telephone or video call with the child(ren).
2. **Mother's Day/Father's Day:** The child(ren) shall be with the appropriate Parent on Mother's Day and Father's Day, regardless of the regular visitation schedule. If the child(ren) are not physically with that Parent, reasonable telephone or video contact shall be permitted.

D. Other Holidays/Vacations: Any other holidays or vacation periods not specifically addressed herein shall be spent with the Parent with whom the child(ren) are scheduled to reside during that time, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

A. **Costs:** The costs of transportation for visitation shall be shared equally by both Parents. This includes airfare, train tickets, bus tickets, or fuel costs if driving.

B. Logistics:

1. **Pickup/Drop-off:** Parent 2 shall be responsible for arranging and paying for the child(ren)'s transportation to Parent 2's residence for visitation. Parent 1 shall be responsible for arranging and paying for the child(ren)'s transportation back to Parent 1's residence at the conclusion of visitation.

2. **Travel Arrangements:** All travel arrangements, including flight numbers, departure and arrival times, and airport locations, shall be communicated between Parents at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled travel date.

3. **Unaccompanied Minors:** If the child(ren) travel as unaccompanied minors, the Parents shall cooperate fully with airline requirements and ensure all necessary paperwork and fees are handled. The receiving Parent shall be at the airport or designated pickup location at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled arrival time.

C. **Travel Documents:** Each Parent shall ensure the child(ren) have all necessary identification and travel documents (e.g., birth certificate, passport if applicable) when traveling between residences.

VII. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS

A. **Method and Frequency:** Parents shall communicate primarily via email or text message for non-urgent matters. For urgent matters, Parents may communicate by telephone. Parents shall endeavor to communicate in a respectful and cooperative manner, focusing on the child(ren)'s best interests.

B. **Topics:** Communication shall be limited to matters directly related to the child(ren)'s health, education, welfare, and the implementation of this Plan.

C. **Response Time:** Parents shall respond to non-urgent communications from the other Parent within forty-eight (48) hours.

D. **Emergency Contact:** Each Parent shall provide the other with current emergency contact information, including phone numbers for work, cell, and any other relevant contacts.

VIII. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CHILD(REN) AND NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT

A. **Frequency:** The child(ren) shall have regular and frequent contact with the non-residential Parent

through telephone calls, video calls, and/or text messages.

B. Schedule: The non-residential Parent shall be entitled to communicate with the child(ren) at least three (3) times per week, at mutually agreed-upon times that do not interfere with the child(ren)'s school, homework, or bedtime routines.

C. Privacy: The Parent with whom the child(ren) are residing shall ensure the child(ren) have privacy during calls with the other Parent and shall not monitor or interfere with such communications.

D. Technology: Both Parents shall ensure the child(ren) have access to appropriate technology (e.g., phone, tablet, computer with internet access) to facilitate communication with the non-residential Parent.

IX. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A. Child Support: Child support obligations shall be governed by a separate order or agreement, which is incorporated herein by reference, or shall be determined by the court. This Plan does not modify any existing child support order.

B. Extraordinary Expenses: Extraordinary expenses for the child(ren), such as uninsured medical expenses, extracurricular activities, and educational costs beyond basic tuition, shall be shared equally by the Parents, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing. Parents shall discuss and agree upon any extraordinary expense exceeding \$100.00 prior to incurring it, except in cases of emergency.

C. Travel Expenses: As outlined in Section VI, travel expenses for visitation shall be shared equally by both Parents.

X. MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

Each Parent shall be entitled to full and complete access to the child(ren)'s medical, dental, psychological, and educational records. Each Parent shall be listed as an emergency contact and shall be authorized to obtain information directly from healthcare providers, schools, and other relevant institutions. The Parent with whom the child(ren) are residing shall promptly notify the other Parent of any significant medical issues, school conferences, or disciplinary actions involving the child(ren).

XI. RELOCATION

A. Notice: If either Parent intends to relocate their residence a distance that would materially affect the

implementation of this Plan, that Parent shall provide written notice to the other Parent at least ninety (90) days prior to the proposed relocation date, or as otherwise required by applicable state law. The notice shall include the new address, the reason for the relocation, and a proposed revised parenting plan.

B. Modification: Upon receipt of a relocation notice, the Parents shall attempt to reach a new agreement regarding custody and visitation. If an agreement cannot be reached, either Parent may seek court intervention to modify this Plan.

XII. MODIFICATION OF PLAN

This Plan may be modified only by a written agreement signed by both Parents or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

XIII. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event of any dispute or disagreement arising under this Plan, the Parents agree to first attempt to resolve the dispute through mediation with a qualified mediator. The costs of mediation shall be shared equally by both Parents. If mediation is unsuccessful, either Parent may seek judicial intervention.

XIV. GOVERNING LAW

This Plan shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of

_____.

XV. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Plan constitutes the entire agreement between the Parents concerning the custody, visitation, and care of their minor child(ren) and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, and agreements, whether oral or written.

XVI. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Plan is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

XVII. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Parents acknowledge that they have read this Long-Distance Parenting Plan, understand its terms, and voluntarily agree to abide by its provisions. Both Parents agree that this Plan is in the best interests of their minor child(ren).

Parent 1 (Mother/Father)

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____ day of _____, 20 _____

Address: _____

Parent 2 (Mother/Father)

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____ day of _____, 20 _____

Address: _____