

SUPERIOR COURT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

Civil Action File No.

,
Plaintiff,

 v.

 ,
Defendant.

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PARENTING PLAN A

Instructions: This Parenting Plan is approved for use in the Columbia Judicial Circuit. This local form is substantially similar to the form set forth in Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.10. If there are substantive changes to the basic form, **bold and underline** the changes, and check here _____.

Date of this plan: _____

() The parties agree to the terms of this plan and affirm the accuracy of the information provided, as shown by their signatures at the end of this plan.

() This plan has been prepared or ordered by the judge.

This plan: () is a new plan.
 () modifies an existing Order: Court: _____

Case No.: _____ Date: _____

This plan applies to the following minor child(ren) of the parties:

Child's Name	Year of Birth

I. CUSTODY AND DECISION MAKING

A. Legal Custody shall be: **[Check one]**

- (X) joint.
- () with the Mother, not joint.
- () with the Father, not joint.

B. Primary Physical Custodian

For the child(ren) named below, the primary physical custodian shall be:

	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint

For the purposes of this Parenting Plan, Mother, Father is designated as the “Custodial Parent”. The other parent is the “Non-Custodial Parent”.

C. Day-To-Day Decisions

A parent shall make decisions regarding the day-to-day care of the child(ren) while the child(ren) is/are residing with that parent, including any emergency decisions affecting the health or safety of the child(ren).

D. Major Decisions

Major decisions regarding each child shall be made as follows:

Educational decisions	<input type="checkbox"/> Custodial Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Custodial Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> joint
Non-emergency health care	<input type="checkbox"/> Custodial Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Custodial Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> joint
Religious upbringing	<input type="checkbox"/> Custodial Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Custodial Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> joint
Extracurricular activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Custodial Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Custodial Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> joint

E. Disagreements

If the parents have been ordered to have joint decision making in Section I(D) above, and should the parties be unable to agree after serious and meaningful consideration of each other's views:

the Custodial Parent shall have final decision making authority.

the Non-Custodial Parent shall have final decision making authority.

The party with final decision making authority does not have the authority to modify any of the visitation provisions specifically set forth herein. The number of extracurricular activities in which the child(ren) are enrolled must be reasonable.

II. PARENTING TIME/VISITATION SCHEDULES

The following schedule should not be construed as precluding other visitation or alternative arrangements. The best visitation plan is one the parties have agreed to, rather than one imposed by the Court. However, the Court will only enforce the strict terms of this Parenting Plan in the event of any future disagreements concerning visitation.

This parenting schedule begins on:

(X) date of this plan OR () _____
(date and time)

A. Parenting Time/Visitation-General

This visitation schedule is broken up into several different sections or types of visitation. Regardless of the age of the child(ren) whose custody is being addressed herein, this visitation schedule is organized to include visitation during the school year, during holidays from school and during summer. For all purposes herein, the following terms shall be applicable:

- 1) **Visitation during school year:** If the child(ren) are not enrolled in school, the published schedule of the local public school where the primary custodian resides shall be utilized. If the child(ren) are enrolled in school, the schedule of the school system in which the child(ren) is/are actually enrolled shall be utilized. In the event there is more than one child and the children are enrolled in schools which observe different schedules, the parties shall utilize a hybrid schedule that reflects the holidays which are common to all applicable school systems (the applicable schedule shall be referred to as the "School Year"). This schedule may also be referred to as the "Regular Schedule" or "Day-To-Day Schedule" herein.
- 2) **Visitation during Thanksgiving Break:** This period of visitation includes the dates that the applicable school system recesses for at least two consecutive school days in November of every year ("Thanksgiving Break"). This schedule begins to be applicable at 6:00 p.m. on the date that the Thanksgiving Break begins and ends at 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday after Thanksgiving.
- 3) **Visitation during Winter Break:** This period of visitation includes the dates that the applicable school system recesses for winter break and which includes December 25 of every year ("Winter Break"). This schedule begins to be applicable at 6:00 p.m. on the date that the Winter Break begins and ends at 6:00 p.m. on the day before school resumes.
- 4) **Visitation during Spring Break:** This period of visitation includes the dates that the applicable school system recesses for a full week in the month of March or April of every year ("Spring Break"). This schedule begins to be applicable at 6:00 p.m. on the day that school recesses for Spring Break and ends at 6:00 p.m. on the day before school resumes.
- 5) **Visitation during Summer:** This period of visitation includes the dates that the applicable school system recesses for at least one full month in the summer and is the period between academic years ("Summer Break"). The Summer Break begins to be applicable on the day that school recesses for Summer Break and ends at 6:00 p.m. five (5) days before school resumes.
- 6) **Weekend:** For purposes of this parenting plan, a weekend begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and ends at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.
- 7) **Weekday visitation:** Weekday visitation begins at 4:00 p.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m. The party with weekday visitation shall provide the child(ren)'s evening meal and complete any homework assigned for that evening.

B. Visitation during School Year: (Choose one of the following)

During the school year, the Non-Custodial Parent shall have at a minimum the following rights of parenting time/visitation (*choose an item*):

- The weekend of the first, third and fifth Friday (if any) of each month.
- Every other weekend starting the second weekend after the date of this plan.

Additionally, the Non-Custodial Parent shall have weekday parenting time/visitation on (*choose an item*):

- None
- One afternoon each week to be agreed upon by the parties. If the parties cannot agree, weekday visitation shall be on Tuesday.

C. Visitation during Thanksgiving Break: (Choose one of the following)

- Applicable Not applicable, the Day-to-Day schedule applies See Paragraph XI below

_____ In even-numbered years, the Non-Custodial Parent will have the child(ren) with him/her for the entire Thanksgiving Break. In odd-numbered years, the Custodial Parent shall have the child(ren) with him/her for the entire Thanksgiving Break.

OR

_____ The Custodial Parent Non-Custodial Parent shall have the child(ren) for the first period of Thanksgiving Break, beginning at the time that school recesses for Thanksgiving Break until 3:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day in (X) odd-numbered years even-numbered years every year. The other parent will have the child(ren) for the second period of Thanksgiving Break, beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day until 6:00 p.m. on the evening before Thanksgiving Break ends. Unless otherwise indicated, the parties shall alternate the first and second periods of Thanksgiving Break each year.

D. Visitation during Winter Break: (Choose one of the following)

- Applicable Not applicable, the Day-to-Day schedule applies See Paragraph XI below

_____ The Custodial Parent Non-Custodial Parent shall have the child(ren) for the first period of Winter Break, beginning at the time that school recesses for Winter Break until December 26th at 10:00 a.m. in odd-numbered years even-numbered years every year. The other parent will have the child(ren) for the second period of Winter Break, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on December 26th until 6:00 p.m. on the evening before Winter Break ends. Unless otherwise indicated, the parties shall alternate the first and second periods of Winter Break each year. For the purpose of resuming visitation during the School Year, the parent who exercised visitation during the first half of Winter Break shall have the child(ren) with that parent on the first weekend following the end of Winter Break visitation. This is the only time that visitation during the School Year might be reset.

E. Visitation during Summer: (Choose one of the following)

Applicable Not applicable, the day-to-day schedule applies See Paragraph XI below

Unless the parties agree otherwise, visitation with the child(ren) during the Summer Break shall be alternated on a week-to-week basis. The first week of visitation during Summer Break begins on the Sunday after school recesses for the Summer Break at 6:00 p.m. and ends on the following Sunday at 6:00 p.m. The Non-Custodial Parent shall have the first week of Summer Break visitation. The Custodial Parent shall have the next week and the parties shall continue to alternate weeks of visitation during Summer Break thereafter. In all cases, the child(ren) shall be with the Custodial Parent for the last five consecutive days before Summer Break ends and the next School Year begins.

Other: _____

F. Visitation during Spring Break: (Choose one of the following)

Applicable Not applicable, the day-to-day schedule applies See Paragraph XI below

_____ In odd-numbered years, the Non-Custodial Parent shall have the child(ren) for Spring Break. In even-numbered years, the Custodial Parent shall have the child(ren) for the entire Spring Break.

OR

_____ The parties shall divide visitation during every Spring Break. If the parties are unable to agree on visitation during the child(ren)'s spring break, the parent whose Regular Schedule of visitation would include the first weekend of Spring Break will have the child(ren) for that weekend through 12:00 noon on Wednesday. At that time, the child(ren) will be returned to the other parent who will have visitation with the child(ren) for the remainder of Spring Break.

G. Other holiday schedule:

The child(ren) shall be with Mother on every Mother's Day from 6:00 pm on the Saturday which precedes Mother's Day until 6:00 pm of Mother's Day. The child(ren) shall be with Father on every Father's Day from 6:00 pm on the Saturday which precedes Father's Day until 6:00 pm on Father's Day. This schedule will be maintained, regardless of which parent the children would have been with on that particular weekend under the Regular Schedule of visitation or under the schedule of visitation applicable to Summer Break.

H. School holidays that precede or follow weekend visitation during the school year

For the purposes of this parenting plan, if the Non-Custodial Parent exercises visitation during the School Year on a weekend in which there is a Friday and/or Monday school holiday which immediately precedes and/or follows his weekend visitation, Non-Custodial Parent's visitation shall include that Friday and/or Monday school holiday ("Holiday Extension"). For the purposes of this paragraph, a "school holiday" includes a teacher work day or other day in which students are not required to attend school and which is announced by the applicable school system before the end of the Non-Custodial Parent's normal weekend visitation. However, this Holiday Extension is only applicable to the schedule of visitation for the School Year and only applies to Friday and/or Monday. Therefore, the Holiday Extension does not include any

additional school holidays which are not a Friday immediately preceding the regular weekend visitation during the School Year or a Monday that immediately follows a regular weekend visitation during the School Year.

III. COORDINATION OF PARENTING SCHEDULES

The parenting time/visitation awarded herein that is not included within the School Year takes priority over the schedule of visitation during the School Year. Therefore, unless specifically noted otherwise herein, there is no weekend or weekday visitation during Mother’s/Father’s Day, the Thanksgiving Break, the Winter Break, the Summer Break or the Spring Break.

IV. TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

For all periods of visitation, the place of meeting for the exchange of the child(ren) shall be the home of the Custodial Parent, unless the alternate provision below is marked and a different meeting place is indicated.

_____ Alternate meeting place: _____

_____ Other: _____

V. CONTACTING THE CHILD

When the child(ren) is/are in the physical custody of one parent, the other parent will have the right to contact the child(ren) as follows:

A. Contact via telecommunications: The parent without the child(ren) may call the child(ren) AT ANY TIME THAT IS REASONABLE. The party without the child(ren) may not call more than one time per day except in emergency or exceptional circumstances. If the child(ren) is/are not available to talk on the telephone at the time of the call, the party without the child(ren) may leave a mature voice message or mature text message, requesting that the child(ren) return the call. If a mature message is left, the party with the child(ren) shall ensure that the phone call is returned on the same day that the message was left. The party without the child(ren) shall be reasonable in the time of the call, the frequency of the call and the duration of the call.

B. Recording not allowed: Neither party is allowed to record or monitor the communications between the other party and the child(ren) which occurs by telecommunications unless specifically authorized in this Parenting Plan.

VI. SUPERVISION OF PARENTING TIME (if applicable)

() Applicable () Not Applicable

Supervised parenting time shall apply during the day-to-day schedule as follows:

Place: _____

Person/Organization supervising: _____

Responsibility for cost of supervised visitation:

() Custodial Parent () Non-Custodial Parent () Both equally

VII. COMMUNICATION PROVISIONS

A parent shall always have the current address, telephone number and cell phone number of the other parent. A parent shall promptly notify the other parent of a change of address, phone number or cell phone number. If a finding of family violence has been made, this notification may be made through a third party. A parent changing residence must give at least 30 days' notice of the change and provide the full address of the new residence.

If a parent is traveling with the child(ren) to a location that is outside of either the Augusta or Columbia Judicial Circuit and that trip will involve an overnight stay, he/she shall provide the other parent with reasonable information concerning the child(ren)'s whereabouts and how to contact the other parent in the event of an emergency. If travel is by air, he/she shall provide the other parent with the child(ren)'s flight information.

VIII. ACCESS RIGHTS TO RECORDS AND INFORMATION

Each parent shall have direct access to the child(ren)'s school, medical, dental and other records of every type, wherever they may be located, and shall have the right to discuss the child(ren) with doctors, teachers, administrators, coaches, youth leaders, and any and all other persons who are involved in any aspect of the child(ren)'s life/lives. Each parent shall have access to the child(ren)'s grades from school, as well as a schedule of the child(ren)'s curricular and extracurricular events, so that each parent shall be permitted and enabled to fully participate in all aspects of the life/lives of the child(ren) without first seeking the permission or input of the other parent. Each parent shall provide the other parent with all such schedules of curricular and extracurricular events or activities which are not reasonably available to the other parent. Each parent will inform the other of events and activities involving the child(ren) so that each parent will have an opportunity to attend if he/she so desires. Designation as a Non-Custodial Parent does not affect a parent's right to equal access to records and information.

The Custodial Parent shall ensure that the Non-Custodial Parent is listed as the first emergency contact on the child(ren)'s school or day care records if the Custodial Parent cannot be reached.

IX. MODIFICATION OF PLAN OR DISAGREEMENTS

The parties may, by mutual agreement, vary the parenting time/visitation; however, such agreement shall not be a binding court order or be construed as modifying a previous order. Custody and visitation shall only be modified by court order. If the parents disagree about this parenting plan or wish to modify it, they must make a good faith effort to resolve the issue between themselves.

X. CONDUCT OF PARTIES

The parties shall always promote the welfare and best interest of the child(ren), and shall confer with each other on all important matters relating to the child(ren). The parties shall not do anything which will or may tend to estrange the child(ren) from the other party. Neither parent shall, directly or indirectly, encourage the child(ren) not to visit with the other parent, or otherwise interfere with the other party's rights of custody or visitation. The parties shall use their best efforts to amicably resolve disputes which may arise.

In the event that a child develops a serious illness or injury while visiting with one parent, the parent who has the child with them at the time of the injury or illness shall promptly inform the other parent of the child's condition. Emergency surgery necessary for the preservation of life or to prevent a further serious injury or condition may be performed without the other parent's consent; provided, however, that if time permits, the other parent shall be consulted and, in any event, he/she shall be informed as soon as

possible. Non-emergency surgery shall be performed on a child only after the parties have conferred with each other.

Neither party shall consume illegal drugs or excessive amounts of alcohol when the child(ren) is/are in his or her custody. Neither party shall operate a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or any other substance which impairs the ability to drive when the child(ren) is/are in his or her custody.

XI. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS *[If any of these Additional Provisions conflict with other provisions of this Parenting Plan, the Additional Provisions shall control.]*

Mark one, if applicable:

_____ If the Non-Custodial Parent intends to exercise visitation privileges, he/she shall provide the Custodial Parent with no less than forty-eight (48) hours' advance notice of his/her intent. If the Non-Custodial Parent or Designee listed below is more than thirty (30) minutes late picking the child(ren) up at the designated time and has not contacted the Custodial Parent regarding emergency circumstances causing the delay, the Custodial Parent may then make alternative plans for the child(ren) for that visitation period.

_____ If the Non-Custodial Parents intends not to exercise visitation privileges, he/she shall provide the Custodial Parent with no less than forty-eight (48) hours' advance notice of his/her intent. If the Non-Custodial Parent or Designee listed below is more than thirty (30) minutes late picking the child(ren) up at the designated time and has not contacted the Custodial Parent regarding emergency circumstances causing the delay, the Custodial Parent may then make alternative plans for the child(ren) for that visitation period.

Other Additional Provisions:

[Additional pages may be attached.]

XII. INCORPORATION INTO JUDGMENT

It is contemplated that this Parenting Plan will be incorporated into a temporary or final judgment in this case. If there is any conflict between any such judgment and this Parenting Plan or any written agreement between the parties, the judgment shall control. If there is any conflict between this Parenting Plan and any written agreement between the parties, this Parenting Plan shall control.

XIII. AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES *[if applicable]*

The parties hereby knowingly and voluntarily agree to the terms of this Parenting Plan. If signed by a party, the party affirms that the information he/she has provided in connection with the preparation of this Parenting Plan is true and correct.

 [If applicable, this paragraph must be marked.] The parties hereby agree that if a disagreement arises with regard to the terms of this Parenting Plan, prior to seeking a modification, the parties shall attempt to resolve said disagreement through the Columbia Judicial Circuit’s alternative dispute resolution program or any other mediation acceptable to the parties and the Court.

Mother

Father

Date Signed

Date Signed