



<https://afccontario.ca/parenting-plan-guide-and-template/>

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Parenting Plan Template



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Preparation of the *Parenting Plan Template*

The *AFCC-Ontario Parenting Plan Template* has been prepared by the Ontario Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC-O) to assist parents and their professional advisors in developing child-focused parenting plans. The material in this *Template* provides suggestions for clauses that may be used or adapted by parents and their advisors. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the *AFCC-O Parenting Plan Guide*, which offers suggestions for positive co-parenting, and discusses age-appropriate residential schedules for children and the making of a parenting plan. The *Guide* should be read before the *Template* is used. The central premise of the *Guide* and *Template* is that in most cases it is in the best interests of children for parents to co-operate, reduce conflict between them and for their children to have a significant relationship with both parents. These materials should help parents to do this.

The project to develop these materials was supported by the Board and membership of the AFCC-Ontario. While the members of the Task Force listed below took the lead in the drafting of this material and approved the final product, many others contributed ideas and specific suggestions as the work progressed. The *Template* is a collaborative effort, with ideas and inspiration from many sources. Some of clauses proposed here are adapted from the Justice Canada, *Parenting Plan Tool*; the Sample Parenting Plan in the Appendix is based on a precedent provided by Andrea Himel.

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AFCC-ONTARIO PARENTING PLAN TEMPLATE

Using this Parenting Plan Template

A parenting plan is a written document that outlines an agreement by both parents about how they will raise their children after separation or divorce. This *Parenting Plan Template* gives a starting point for drafting a detailed plan. However, each plan should be unique, reflecting the individual needs and circumstances of the parents involved. This *Template* is intended to offer suggestions and options for provisions that you and your professional advisors may want to consider and adapt to meet your situation.

Preferably, both parents will work together to develop their parenting plan, often with the assistance of professional advisors such as lawyers, mediators or mental health professionals. However, if you are unable to work with the other parent to complete a parenting plan, you might prepare your own draft of a preferred parenting plan, and then present it to the other parent as a proposal for their consideration. Being clear about what you want in a parenting plan can help clarify both differences and similarities in the ideas of each parent.

One parent preparing a parenting plan alone as a proposal can be an important first step towards reaching an agreement. A parenting plan proposed by one parent can also be helpful if a case later proceeds to court, both to show what that parent wants and how they are prepared to support and involve the other parent with the child. However, a parenting plan prepared by only one parent alone will not bind the other parent.

While having a parenting plan based on the agreement of both parents is usually valuable, in situations where there are on-going partner abuse concerns or one parent has serious mental health or substance abuse problems, it may be necessary to have a court-imposed order or plan to protect a vulnerable parent and children. Further, it will only be advisable to have a jointly-made parenting plan if both parents are willing and able to communicate, co-operate and make child-focused plans.

Professional Advice

Before completing a parenting plan, it is valuable to consult with a family law lawyer who can help you to understand your legal rights and responsibilities. A parenting plan that has been agreed to by both parents may be a binding document that has legal effect and can be incorporated into a court order. While the *Parenting Plan Template* focusses on “parenting” issues, the type of plan and residential arrangements that are made will

inevitably have a relationship to financial and legal issues, such as support and possession of the family home.

There are family lawyers who are willing to provide advice or consultation to parents on a “limited scope” basis, charging a fee, usually an hourly rate, to review a parenting plan or other agreement, without providing full representation.

See [website of the Ontario Family Law Limited Scope Legal Services Project](#) for more information about this type of legal service, and names and contacts for lawyers doing this work.

Parents can make a parenting plan together without seeking professional help. The *AFCC-Ontario Parenting Plan Template* and other resources are available to assist parents. However, parents will often benefit from getting advice from mediators, counsellors, therapists, parenting coordinators or lawyers to help make a parenting plan. It is an especially good idea to seek independent legal advice before finalizing a parenting plan, in particular to understand its implications for economic issues like child support.

In Ontario, there are [mediation services affiliated with the Family Courts](#) throughout the province that provide services without charge to low income persons and on a geared to income basis for others than can provide valuable assistance in helping parents to reach agreements, whether or not they have lawyers.

Issues to Address

Each section of this *Template* addresses different issues for you to think about as you decide on your parenting arrangements. They include:

- general principles to guide your co-parenting relationship;
- how your children will spend time with each parent, including plans for vacations and holidays;
- making decisions about your children, such as decisions regarding schools or health-care;
- sibling relationships, and children being able to visit and communicate with one another;
- new adult relationships of a parent that might affect your children;
- the use of technology to keep in touch with your children;
- protocols for exchanging information and communicating about your children’s needs;
- taking account of your children’s views in developing the parenting plan;
- handling medical and school appointments and other practical arrangements for your children;

- planning for extracurricular activities for your children;
- cultural heritage, religious observance and faith issues;
- obtaining medical care or counselling for your child;
- travel arrangements;
- considerations for relocation by a parent;
- disability or death of a parent;
- how to resolve disputes as they arise in the future; and
- reviewing, monitoring and changing the parenting plan

It is important to note that this *Template* does not address issues related to child support or other financial issues. To learn more about child support, you may consult the material of the [Community Legal Education Ontario \(CLEO\) on Child Support](#) or use the [federal child support guidelines and worksheets](#).

There may be other issues that are not addressed in this document that you or the other parent may wish to address, and this *Template* should not be regarded as exhaustive of all the issues that could usefully be in a parenting plan.

Many parents will decide that some of the issues identified in this *Template* do not need to be addressed in their plan, as they have clearly agreed about how to deal with them, or their children are too young (or too old) for them to be relevant. If parents do not consider it pressing or important to address an issue when making their plan, it may be wise to avoid trying to resolve issues that may arise in the future but seem remote. For example, if a plan is being made for a child in Grade 1, it will typically not be useful to address issues about high school attendance. The experience of co-operating in implementing a parenting plan may make it easier to make joint plans in the future, and in any event the future circumstances of the children and parents will affect the plans made.

Many of the options discussed require you and the other parent to co-operate well with one another. Some of the options may not be appropriate for your situation. In particular, if there has been family violence or there are ongoing safety issues for you and your children, options that would require you and the other parent to interact frequently may not work. If you have concerns about safety of yourself or your children, you should consult a lawyer, a local shelter or the police, and may need to seek an order from the court for your protection.

Making a Parenting Plan

All families are different. A parenting plan needs to be individualized to meet the needs of specific children and parents. This *Template* is intended to be used in conjunction with the *AFCC-Ontario Parenting Plan Guide*. This document offers examples of clauses you may want to use or adapt for your parenting plan.

The terms in this *Template* are only examples. Your parenting plan needs to be tailored to meet your child's specific needs. For example, if one or more of your children have any special medical or learning needs that must be taken into consideration, you may wish to create separate parenting schedules or even separate plans for each child. This will allow you to select different options that better reflect your family's and children's specific needs. At the same time, it is important that your plan be simple enough to follow and that you do not create unrealistic expectations for the parents or the children.

If it's likely that there will be conflict between you and the other parent about certain parenting issues, you should think about addressing them in more detail in your plan. This may help to reduce conflict later. On the other hand, only include the details that are really necessary. It's important to remember that you and the other parent will both need to comply with the rules you include in your plan.

Children's needs change over time, especially as they go through different developmental stages, and the circumstances of parents may change, including relating to health, income or new relationships. It's a good idea to recognize that you may need to revisit your parenting plan as the children get older. You may also need to revisit the plan if your children's medical or educational needs change. The last part of this *Template* addresses the issue of future modifications to the plan.

Family Background

A parenting plan should begin by identifying the children and parents to whom it applies, and making a statement that it is intended to have legal effect (assuming that is the expectation of the parents).

SAMPLE PARENTING PLAN BETWEEN [PARENT #A] AND [PARENT #B]

The following Parenting Plan applies to the children of [parent A] and [parent B], being [child #1 full name], born [birth date of child #1] and [child #2 full name], born [birth date of child #2]. This Parenting Plan is a "domestic contract" under the *Family Law Act* (Ontario) and is also intended to have effect in proceedings under the *Divorce Act*. The parties agree that it may be incorporated into a court order.

General Principles

You may wish to include general statements about your parenting relationship and your responsibilities to your child at the beginning of your parenting plan. These statements are meant to provide guiding principles about how both parents should conduct themselves to protect their children from the conflict. The general statements help to keep the focus on the children and can reinforce the importance of children having a good relationship with both parents. To protect the children from adult conflict, the

general statements can also be about ways that you and the other parent will communicate and co-operate with one another about the needs of your children.

Here are some general statements of principle, some or all of which might be recognized or adapted for your parenting plan.

Responsibilities to Our Child

Children of separated parents do best in both the short term and the long run when they feel loved and cared for by both parents. We recognize that this requires that we co-operate, and that we each support our children having a good relationship with the other parent.

We are both responsible for and will contribute to the care and upbringing of our children.

Our children have the right to love and be loved by both parents, without feeling guilt or disapproval.

We agree that we will make decisions that are in the best interests of our children and will put their interests ahead of our own.

We will find an appropriate way to consider our children's views in making our decisions.

We will make it clear to our children that although we're asking for their input, they're not responsible for the decisions or final plans. We are responsible for making these decisions.

Our children and the other parent should know well in advance about important changes that will affect them, such as if one parent is planning to relocate or have a new partner move into their home.

We will keep our children out of our conflict. We will not ask them to pick sides, carry messages, or hear our possible complaints about the other parent.

We agree that we will communicate in a civil manner with each other, and we will not argue in front of the children or involve them in any conflict between us. We will each encourage our children to respect the other parent.

We agree that we will seek counselling services from a mental health professional to assist us in parenting our children post-separation and divorce.

Responsibilities to Each Other

We will both promote our children's relationship with the other parent. We will not speak negatively about the other parent in the presence of the children, and we will encourage our children to spend time with their siblings, the other parent, and their extended family. We will discourage family members and friends from speaking negatively about the other parent in the presence of the children.

We will exchange educational, medical, and extra-curricular information about our children.

We recognize the importance of exchanging contact information (parents' address, telephone numbers, email address), so we can communicate and know about our children.

We recognize that new intimate relationships of either parent may impact our children. We agree that we will carefully consider how to introduce any new partners and possible step-siblings to our children. We will discuss these issues with the other parent before introducing new partners to our children.

Alternative Statement About New Partners

We recognize that new intimate relationships of either parent may impact our children. We agree that we will carefully consider how to introduce any new partners and possible step-siblings to our children. We will discuss these issues with the other parent before there is significant involvement of new partner in the lives of our children (e.g. a vacation with a new partner, cohabitation, remarriage, a pregnancy as a result of a new relationship).

Reviewing this Parenting Plan

We recognize that as our children grow up and as our lives change, we will need to review this parenting plan and adjust it from time to time.

From time to time, we may need to change this parenting plan to reflect our children's changing needs. Any such changes will be discussed as early and as often as required at parent meetings, as well as where appropriate with our children. We expect to review and seek input from our children about this parenting plan as the children become older.

We will use a non-court family dispute resolution process (e.g. mediation) if we are unable to agree to changes needed to the parenting plan. We will avoid unnecessary litigation that places our child in conflict about the parenting plan.

Parenting Time Schedule

The parenting time arrangement (or parenting time schedule) is an important part of a parenting plan. The parenting time schedule that you agree to should be based on an assessment of your children's best interests, as well as the parents' lives, in particular your work schedules. There are several examples below of schedules for school-aged children, but there may be other parenting time arrangements that would work better in your situation. It's important to think about practical issues in developing a parenting time arrangement that is best for your children and realistic for you. For example, work schedules, transportation and how far you live from the other parent will likely affect the parenting time arrangement.

The parenting schedule should be made responsive to the needs and best interests of children; parents may benefit from consulting with a mental health professional or counsellor to help them understand the needs of their children. Parents also should be aware that some parenting arrangements will affect child support obligations and

entitlement to some government benefits. In particular, if a parenting schedule results in a child living with each parent at least 40% of the time, that may result in equal or near equal parenting time for the purposes of the *Child Support Guidelines*, and may affect entitlement to the Canada Child Benefit and the Eligible Dependent Credit for tax purposes.

Sometimes instead of setting out a specific schedule, agreements or orders use language like "reasonable" or "generous" parental time with the children. This leaves it up to parents to decide parenting time arrangements on a flexible, ongoing basis. While this works well in some cases, it can result in disputes and conflict. Many parents find that having a detailed, written parenting time schedule helps ensure that parents are entering into a plan with common expectations and facilitates planning. However, if there is a written schedule and your circumstances change (as they almost inevitably will), you should change the schedule. While there is nothing inappropriate about parents changing their actual schedule without altering the written parenting plan, agreements to changes that are not confirmed in writing may lead to problems later on if there are disputes about parenting or child support.

There are many possible parenting schedules. As discussed in the *AFCC-Ontario Parenting Plan Guide*, the schedule needs to be appropriate for the age of the child and the specific circumstances of the child and parents.

It will be very helpful to read the section of the *Parenting Plan Guide* that considers age appropriate schedules before starting to make a plan. It may be helpful to start with a blank 4 week schedule as you begin to discuss this issue. Many parents use a visual schedule that starts on Monday, which reflects the school week, but some prefer the commonly used Sunday to Saturday calendar.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

Many parents have a “regular” parenting time schedule, and also have some provisions for special arrangements for holidays or the summer. Here are some examples of regular schedules to consider. Think about how much you need this amount of detail in your plan. Some examples of possible schedules are:

Alternating Weekends and One Overnight Per Week with One Parent, Rest with the Other Parent

The child will live with Parent B every second weekend from after school on Friday until the start of school on Monday morning. The child will live with Parent B from after school on Wednesday until school on Thursday. If a child is sick or unable to attend school on the Monday or Thursday when Parent B would take the child to school, Parent B will be responsible for the child’s care until the end of that school day. If there is a school long weekend that includes a Friday, Parent B’s time will start at the end of school on Thursday, or if it includes a Monday will end at the start of school on Tuesday. Parent B will be responsible for picking up and taking the child to school on the relevant days. The child will live with Parent A the rest of the time.

Alternating Weekends and One Evening Per Week with One Parent, Rest with the Other Parent

The child will live with Parent B every second weekend from after school on Friday until Sunday at 4pm and the balance of time with Parent A. Parent B will also pick the child up from school on Wednesday and drop them off at Parent A’s residence at 8pm that evening. On the weekends when the child lives with Parent B, Parent B will pick the child up from school on Friday. If there is a school long weekend when Parent B has the child, Parent B’s time will start at the end of school on Thursday or continue to Monday at 4pm. Parent B will be responsible for picking up the child at school and taking them to Parent A on the relevant days.

Residence with One Parent, Supervised Weekend Time with the Other Parent

The child will live with Parent A. Parent B will have time with the child from 10am to 4pm every second Saturday at the home of B’s parents. One of B’s parents and/or his sister will be responsible for the child and supervising B’s time with them and will pick up and return the child to the home of Parent A at the start and end of the visits.

Equal Time: Alternating Weeks

The child will live alternating weeks with Parent A and Parent B. If the child is living with Parent A in a given week, Parent A or a delegate will pick the child up on Monday after school and drop them off at school the following Monday morning. Parent B or a delegate will do the same the following week.

Equal Time: Split-Week (2-2-5-5) Rotation

Our parenting time schedule is a rotation based on two consecutive days with each parent and then five consecutive days with each parent, with each parent having two uninterrupted weekends a month. The child will live with:

1. Parent A from Monday after school until Wednesday morning before school;
2. Parent B from Wednesday after school until Friday before school;
3. Parent A from Friday after school until the following Wednesday morning before school;
4. Parent B from Wednesday after school until the following Monday morning before school.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Parent A	Parent A	Parent B	Parent B	Parent A	Parent A	Parent A
Parent A	Parent A	Parent B	Parent B	Parent B	Parent B	Parent B
Parent A	Parent A	Parent B	Parent B	Parent A	Parent A	Parent A
Parent A	Parent A	Parent B	Parent B	Parent B	Parent B	Parent B

Equal Time: Split Two-Week (2-2-3-2-2-3) Rotation

Our parenting time schedule is a rotation over a two-week period. In each week, the schedule is based on two consecutive days with one parent, then two consecutive days with the other parent, and then three consecutive days with the first parent. With each parent having two weekends. The child will live with:

1. Parent A from 7pm on Sunday until Tuesday before school
2. Parent B from Tuesday after school until Thursday before school
3. Parent A from Thursday after school until 7pm on the Sunday beginning week 2
4. Parent B from 7pm on the Sunday beginning week 2 until Tuesday before school
5. Parent A from Tuesday of week 2 after school until Thursday before school
6. Parent B from Thursday of week 2 after school until 7pm on the following Sunday.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Parent A	Parent A	Parent B	Parent B	Parent A	Parent A	Parent A
Parent B	Parent B	Parent A	Parent A	Parent B	Parent B	Parent B
Parent A	Parent A	Parent B	Parent B	Parent A	Parent A	Parent A
Parent B	Parent B	Parent A	Parent A	Parent B	Parent B	Parent B

Transfers of Care of the Children

While arrangements for transport of children will often be made based on parental work schedules and logistical factors, if possible the parent who has care prior to the transfer should deliver the child to the other parent. This helps the child get the sense that each parent values the child being with the other parent: one parent is giving over care to the other parent, who is welcoming the child into their home, rather than having the child feel that one parent is taking them away from the other parent. This type of transfer arrangement also helps the child with getting dressed and packed up, which is often harder for children than arriving somewhere.

Drop offs and pickups at the start and end of school or day care may also be easier for the child, and minimize the number of overall transitions between the parents that the child experiences. Some alternatives for transfers are as follows:

Transporting the Child to the Other Parent's Home

When a parent's time with the child begins while the child is in the care of the other parent, the parent who has the care of the child before the transfer is responsible for transporting the child to the other parent's home.

Picking Up the Child from the Other Parent's Home

When a parent's time with the child ends, the parent with whom the child will next be spending time is responsible for transporting the child to their home.

Picking Up the Child from School

When a parent's time with the child begins after school, that parent is responsible for picking the child up at school. When the parent's time ends on a school morning, that parent is responsible for dropping the child off at school and ensuring that the child has what they need for the day at school.

Exchanges in Neutral Settings

Parents will use a neutral place for all transfers of the child at a specified time and *location [fill in time and location]*.

Exchanges in Safe Settings

Parents will use a neutral safe third-party professional to supervise all transfers of the child (e.g. supervised access and exchange programs).

Long Weekends, Vacations and Special Days

There should be consideration of how children will spend their summer, and whether provision should be made for holidays or long weekends (whether resulting from statutory holidays or school based professional development days), and “special days,” like the birthday of a parent or the child.

Christmas Break and New Year's Eve

Regardless of the regular parenting schedule, in even-numbered years the child will be with Parent A from December 24 at 11am to December 25 at 11:00 am and with Parent B from December 25 at 11:00 am to December 26 at 11:00 am, and with Parent B from December 31 at 11am to New Year's Day at 11am. In odd-numbered years this schedule will be reversed.

Possible Added Provision for Christmas School Break to Allow for Travel

It is contemplated that either parent may, from time-to-time, wish to alter the Christmas schedule to take the child on a holiday for up to 10 continuous days. The parties acknowledge that it is intended that if a change in the Christmas schedule is agreed to by the non-requesting party, the requesting party will be expected to reciprocate the following year on the same terms. Where one parent wishes to change the Christmas schedule for a given year, the requesting party will give the other party at least four weeks' notice of the proposed change and they will attempt to resolve the issue directly. In the event they cannot resolve the issue between themselves, they will use the dispute resolution provisions of this Parenting Plan to resolve the issue.

Alternative for Christmas School Break to Allow for Travel

In even numbered years Parent A will have the children from Friday after school at the start of the Christmas break until Saturday in the middle of the break at 4pm. Parent B will have the children for the rest of the break and return the children to school on the first day of school in January. This will be reversed in odd-numbered years.

Holiday Schedule (Jewish)

The holiday schedule will supersede the regular residential schedule. It will be as follows until otherwise agreed to by the parties, or ordered by the Court.

Passover and March School Break

The child will reside with Parent A for the Passover Holiday and March School break, commencing on the last day of school and ending on the morning that school re-commences. The Parent A may travel with the child during the Break. If Parent A chooses to remain in Toronto, she will facilitate one overnight stay with Parent B.

In the event that the child has March Break that does not coincide with Passover, the parents will share the March Break and Breaks in that school year equally with an exchange at 4:00 p.m. on the day in the middle of the break.

Rosh Hashana

In odd-numbered years the child will reside with Parent B on Erev Rosh Hashana from 4:00 pm and is to be returned to the other parent's home the following day at 4:00 pm. The child will reside with Parent A from 4:00 pm on the first day of the holiday to 4:00 pm on the second day. This will be reversed in even-numbered years.

Yom Kippur

In odd-numbered years the child will reside with Parent B on Erev Yom Kippur from 4:00 pm until the next day at 12:00 pm. The child will reside with Parent A from 12:00 pm on Yom Kippur to return to school or the other's parent's home the following day at 12:00 pm. This will be reversed in even-numbered years. The 12:00 pm exchanges will take place at the synagogue or at the other parent's home as agreed.

Sukkot

In odd-numbered years the child will reside with Parent B on Erev Sukkot to a return to Parent A's home the following day at 4:00 pm, and on the second to last evening of the holiday from 4:00 pm until the next day at 4:00 pm. The child will reside with Parent A on Sukkot from 4:00 pm on the first day to a return to school or the other parent's home the following day if there is no school, and on the last evening before the end of the holiday from 4:00 pm to return to school or the other parent's home if there is no school. This will be reversed in even-numbered years.

Christmas School Break (for Jewish Child)

The child will reside with Parent B for the Christmas school break, commencing on the last day of school and ending on the morning that school re-commences. The Parent B may travel with the child during this school break. If Parent B chooses to remain in Toronto, he will facilitate one overnight with the Parent A each week.

In any school year that Parent A does not have March Break in its entirety, the Christmas school break will be shared and the child will reside with Parent B from after school on the last day of school to 7:00 pm on the Saturday in the middle of the vacation, and with Parent A until a return to school at the end of the break.

Muslim Eid holiday

The parties will alternate the Muslim Eid holiday dates every year. For the 2019-2020 school year, the child will be with Parent B for the first Eid (which coincides with the end of Ramadan) from 10 am until 7:30 pm (if he is not otherwise in the Parent B's care) and with Parent A for the second Eid (Haj) from 10 am until 7:30 pm (if he is not otherwise in the Parent A's care). For the 2020-2021 school year, he will be with Parent A for the first Eid and with Parent B for the second Eid. This schedule will alternate every year.

School March Break (No Special Religious Days)

Regardless of the regular parenting schedule, the parents will alternate March breaks from Friday at the end of school until the start of school on the Monday morning after school, with Parent B having the child for the entire March break in odd-numbered years, and Parent A having the child in even-numbered years. The parent with care of the child for March break may travel with the child.

Alternative for March Break

In even-numbered years the Children will reside with Parent B commencing with the Monday (am) and ending on the Friday (pm) of the March school break, which will attach to his regular weekend. In odd-numbered years the children will reside with Parent A.

Alternative for March Break

The child will reside with Parent B for the first half of the March Break, commencing on the last day of school and ending on the Wednesday at 4pm, and Parent A will have the child until school resumes at the end of the March Break morning that school re-commences.

Summer Vacation

Each parent will have the child for three continuous weeks each summer. In even-numbered years, by May 1 Parent A will inform Parent B of the three weeks that they want to spend with the child. In odd-numbered years this will be reversed.

Alternative for Summer Vacation

Each party will have a two week period of uninterrupted time with the Children during July and August, preferably attached to his/her regular weekends. Parent A will have her first choice of weeks in odd-numbered years, and Parent B in even-numbered years. The party with the first choice will advise the other in writing by January 15 annually. The party with the second choice will advise the other in writing by January 22 annually. The balance of the summer school break will follow the regular schedule.

It is also possible to vary the regular schedule for long-weekends, but if parents have a regular schedule that includes alternating weekends with each parent, varying that schedule for long weekends may create situations where one parent has the children three weekends in a row. Most parents find it easier to vary the regular schedule by adding a day, recognizing that over the years the long weekends tend to average out, or just maintain the regular schedule.

The first clause does not vary the schedule, except to make the “weekends long”, and is premised on an alternate weekend schedule. The second example is more detailed and complex, and, without detailed re-scheduling may result in one parent having three weekends in a row despite an alternate weekends regular schedule.

Long Weekends

If there is a long weekend (whether due to a Statutory Holiday or Professional Development Day), the parent with time scheduled for that weekend will have responsibility and care of the children until the start of school on Tuesday, or if the day off from school is a Friday, will be responsible for picking up the child after school on Thursday.

Alternative for Long Weekends

Regardless of the regular schedule, the parents will have the children with them as set out for the following holiday long weekends (except that, for any weekend set out below that takes place during a party's summer vacation with or without the children, that summer vacation schedule will prevail).

- (a) Family Day Weekend: with Parent A in even-numbered years and Parent B in odd-numbered years.
- (b) Easter Weekend: with Parent B in even-numbered years and Parent A in odd-numbered years (from Thursday after school until Tuesday morning when school starts.)
- (c) Victoria Day Weekend: with Parent A in even-numbered years and Parent B in odd-numbered years.
- (d) Canada Day Weekend: with Parent B in even-numbered years and Parent A in odd-numbered years.
- (e) August Civic Holiday Weekend: with Parent A in even-numbered years and Parent B in odd-numbered years.
- (f) Labour Day Weekend: with Parent B in even-numbered years and Parent A in odd-numbered years.
- (g) Thanksgiving Weekend: with Parent A in even-numbered years and Parent B in odd-numbered years.

Hallowe'en

In even-numbered years Parent A will have first right to take the child trick-or-treating if s/he wishes. If Parent A does not wish to take the child trick-or-treating for that year, Parent B will have the option of trick-or-treating with the child. This will be reversed in odd-numbered years.

For all years, if a parent takes the children trick-or-treating when he or she is the non-resident parent, that parent will pick up the children from school on October 31 (or at 3:00 pm from the resident parent, if October 31 falls on a weekend) and return the children to their schools the next morning or, if the next morning falls on a weekend, to the other parent at 10:00 am the following day. The parent who takes the child trick or treating will be responsible for the costume.

Alternative for Hallowe'en

The non-resident parent will have the option of taking the child out for one hour of his/her choice at Hallowe'en. The non-resident parent will give the resident parent two weeks' notice of the hour selected. The resident parent on Hallowe'en will be responsible for the child's costume.

Snow Days and Other Unanticipated School Closures

The resident parent for a given day is responsible for the care of the child whose school is closed that day for a professional activity, a snow day, and any other day when the school closure is otherwise than on account of a long weekend (which days are specifically dealt with under this Parenting Plan).

Where a school closure is both unanticipated and takes place on a "transition day" (*i.e.*, when a child is with one parent for the overnight and then the other parent after school ends the following day), the parent who had the child for the overnight of the transition day will be responsible for the child's care during the closure. This transition day exception will not apply to anticipated closure days (*e.g.* a professional activity day) and in such cases the resident parent for the day of the closure will be responsible for the child with him or her, as set out above.

Parents' Honoured Days

If not otherwise in parent's care, regardless of the regular schedule, the child will spend time with the honoured parent from Saturday at 7:00 p.m. to Sunday at 7:00 p.m. (or a return to school on Monday).

Alternative to Parents' Honoured Days

A parent celebrating his or her birthday when he or she is the non-resident parent will have the option, upon providing two weeks' notice to the resident parent, that he or she wants the child to be with him or her for dinner that day. The celebrating parent will pick the child up after school or at 4pm if not a school day, and will return the child at 8pm.

Some parenting plans make special provision for the birthdays of parents or children, though many do not. While it is understandable that parents want to enjoy celebrations with their children, children often appreciate having "two birthdays" rather than dividing time on their actual date of birth. Further, children may want the opportunity for a party with their friends on their birthday. It is also understandable that parents want their children to celebrate their birthdays, but most children do not necessarily expect this to be on the anniversary of their parent's birth, and variations of a parenting schedule can add complexity, especially if they are in the summer or the festive period in December.

Children's Birthdays

The non-resident parent may take the children out for dinner for up to 2 hours on each child's birthday.

Parents' Birthdays

A parent celebrating his or her birthday when he or she is the non-resident parent will have the option, upon providing three weeks' notice to the resident parent, that he or she wants the child to be with him or her for that day. In such case, the child will be with that parent from 10am on the day of the parent's birthday (if a weekend or holiday) and/or after school (as applicable) until the start of school or 10 am the following day, at which time the regular schedule will resume.

Flexibility in Response to Unexpected Events and “Missed Time”

You should expect that to meet the needs of your children, you will at times likely need to be flexible with the parenting schedule. For example, you may need to reschedule your children's time with one parent if there is an out-of-town sports tournament during their time with the children, but the other parent is responsible for transportation to and from the activity.

There will also inevitably be unexpected personal and family emergencies, such as the death of a close relative, that will require flexibility. A good way to respond to situations when you are asked to be flexible to an unexpected event or emergency faced by the other parent is to think about how you would want them to respond if you were faced with a similar situation or emergency.

Most parents can address missed time issues resolve on a flexible, informal basis as situations arise, and, if appropriate, arrangements can be made for the makeup time at the same time as the variation is being sought, so many parenting plans do not have specific provision for this. However, an example of a clause that could deal with this situation is:

Rescheduling and Make-up Time

If a parent is faced with an unexpected situation such as illness or a death in the family, or an irregular event like a family wedding, the other parent will make every effort to accommodate a request for a change in the schedule. If the change in the schedule results in the children missing considerable time with the accommodating parent, reasonable “make-up time” will be arranged by the parents.

Childcare (Right of First Refusal or Priority for Parental Care)

Some parents agree that if the parent with scheduled time with the child is unable to personally be with child, the other parent should have the first option to provide childcare so they should be contacted before childcare arrangements are made. In many cases, however, these types of arrangements can cause conflict between the parents, so it may be better to have no provision for a “right of first refusal.”

Issues of make-up time or right of first refusal are most likely to be a concern if children have only limited scheduled time with one parent, or there are likely to be absences for a significant period of time. Parents who are co-operating reasonably well can usually deal with these situations without specific provision, but some possible clauses are:

Parent Unable to Provide Care and “Right of First Refusal”

We agree that if childcare is required for more than twenty-four hours, the parent with whom the child is living will notify the other parent and give them the opportunity to spend the period for which childcare is required with the child. If the other parent cannot accommodate the request, the resident parent is

responsible for arranging and paying for alternate childcare and will inform the other party of who will be caring for the children.

Ask other parent when practical

We agree to call the other parent, whenever it is practical, for childcare needs, giving the other parent an opportunity to decide if they can parent during these times.

Residential parent has sole responsibility

We agree that when the children are residing with one parent, that parent will have the sole responsibility for making childcare arrangements.

Persons Authorized to Pick Up and Drop Off the Children

Sometimes one parent is not be able to pick up or drop off the children as scheduled and may arrange for someone else to do this. In most cases, this should not cause problems and it should be the right and responsibility of the parent with care of the children to determine who will do this. But, in some cases, one of you may have concerns about who picks up and drops off your children. If you do, it's a good idea to discuss this issue and decide how you will handle it.

Pick Up and Drop Off

If it is not possible for Parent A or Parent B to pick up or drop off the child as provided for in the parenting time arrangement, the parent who is responsible for the pick up or drop off may delegate another person to pick up or drop off the child.

Alternative for Pick Up and Drop Off

If it is not possible for Parent A or Parent B to pick up or drop off the child as provided for in the parenting time arrangement, the following people may pick up or drop off the child: [insert names of all individuals who may do this].

Children's Personal Items

Children often have favourite clothing, toys, or communication devices that they would like to have with them, wherever they are living. Even if these are gifts from one parent, it is normally appropriate to recognize the child's attachments and rights to personal property . If there is potential for conflict on this issue, it can be important to be clear about where the children may take these items.

Children's Personal Items

We agree that Parent A will transport our child's favourite items to Parent B during the transfers with the child back and forth.

Alternative for Children's Personal Items

The child may take personal items (for example, clothing, toys, sports equipment, cell phone, regardless of which parent purchased these items), between the homes of Parent A and Parent B. We will not restrict the child's ability to take these items between our homes. The parents will each have toiletries, pajamas and as many belongings as possible for the children in their homes. These items will not travel back and forth.

Scheduling Extra-Curricular Activities

In the absence of a provision in a parenting plan or the agreement of the other parent, one parent should not schedule extra-curricular activities during another parent's scheduled time with a child. Scheduling an activity in the other parent's time, without their consent, is very inconsiderate, as it either forces that parent to do something that was not wanted, or results in the child not engaging in that activity, which may be upsetting to the child or disruptive to the organizers of the activity.

Scheduling Extra-curricular Activities

Neither of us will schedule extra-curricular activities during the time the child is to be living with or in the care of the other parent, unless the other parent agrees. The other parent will not unreasonably withhold their agreement.

Alternative for Scheduling Extra-curricular Activities

Each parent may select and pay for one extra-curricular activity that occurs no more than once a week for the child, and the other parent will be expected to take the child to that activity and support the child's participation during the time that the child is in their care.

Extracurricular activities that both parents are not willing to support may also be addressed by a parenting schedule, so that the parent who supports an activity has the care of the child when that activity occurs.

Virtual Time (Telephone, Texting, Video Calls and Other Contact)

Many parents have flexible arrangements about contact by the children with the other parent and do not address the issue of communication in their parenting plan. However, if there is a potential for conflict on this issue, it can be important to set out some ground rules for contact with a parent while the child is with the other parent. When this is not clear, misunderstandings can sometimes arise about one parent "interfering" with the time of the other parent. Examples of possible approaches are provided below.

You need to decide if and how much telephone/texting or other contact will meet the child's needs. For example, some children who are doing well spending time with a parent may become upset just by hearing the other parent's voice on the phone. For other children, this will not be an issue. Think about what will work best for your child.

You may wish to speak with your child about how they like to communicate. Do they prefer to use the telephone, texting, email, video calls (for example, Skype, FaceTime) or other forms of virtual communication? If there is conflict between you and the other parent and the child is old enough, you may wish to consider suggesting a form of communication that the child can use privately on their own.

It is important to remember that the type and length of communication your child can use will depend on many factors, including their age and stage of development. For example, young children may find it difficult to have a conversation by telephone or become bored and restless if the call is more than a few minutes.

Communication with Child

During the regular parenting time schedule, the child may contact each parent whenever they wish.

Alternative for Communication with Child

During the regular parenting time schedule, the child may contact their siblings or step-siblings whenever they wish.

Alternative for Communication with Child

During the regular parenting time schedule, Parent A may call the child between [insert time] and [insert time] when they are with Parent B and Parent B may call the child between [insert time] and [insert time] when they are with Parent A. Calls will normally be no more than 10 minutes.

Social Media

For some parents, the use of social media by the child, and use of pictures or other material about the child on parental social media, are contentious issues that should be addressed in a parenting plan. Other parents can deal with this on a flexible, evolving basis. Some possible clauses to address this issue include:

Social Media

Neither parent will post any pictures on social media of the other parent nor make any derogatory comments about the other parent on social media.

Alternative for Social Media

Each parent may post pictures of their children on social media, which may include pictures of the child with the other parent, but there will be no derogatory comments or embarrassing pictures posted about the other parent on social media.

The parents agree that their child A should not have access to any social media platform until she reaches the age of X years, and thereafter they will both

monitor her social media usage to ensure that it is safe and does not cause embarrassment to either parent.

Time with Other Significant Adults

In most cases, children have relationships with and spend time with other people in their lives, like grandparents or other extended family members, while they're with their parents. But sometimes, parents may decide to include a clause in their parenting plan that specifically provides for contact between the child and another person. For example, this may apply when a person has been very involved in the care of the child, and it's important to the child to maintain that relationship by setting up regular visits. When you're thinking about this type of provision, it's important to keep in mind the child's overall schedule as well as their involvement in activities.

Visits with Specified Persons (Grandparents)

The child will spend from [insert time] to [insert time] the [insert regularly occurring day, e.g. the last Sunday of every month] with [insert name of individual]. [insert name of individual] will be responsible for picking up the child from Parent [insert Parent A or B depending on the parenting time arrangement] and dropping off the child to Parent [insert Parent A or B depending on the parenting time arrangement].

For example: The child will spend from 10am to 4pm the last Sunday of every month with Grandma A. She will be responsible for picking up the child from Parent A and dropping off the child to Parent B.

Time with Half and Step-Siblings

If one or both parents have new partners who have children, the parents should discuss involvement of new partners and family with their children, and may wish to provide for time with step or half-siblings, either in a schedule or with a more general statement such as:

Parent A acknowledges that the children have an important relationship with their half-brother X, who resides with Parent B and his new partner, and Parent A will support that relationship.

Making Decisions About Your Children

You and the other parent need to decide how you will make major decisions about your children. Examples of major decisions that may require the involvement of both parents to implement include decisions about:

- choice of school and other educational issues;
- medical treatment, any special dietary needs, and other health care needs;
- participation in extracurricular activities;
- attendance at religious observances and/or customary cultural events.

You and the other parent may agree to make these major decisions jointly, have them made solely by one parent, or divide different decisions between you. Although it is usually preferable for children if parents consult with each other and make major decisions jointly, sometimes this is not possible when parents have separated (and even when parents live together, joint decision-making about children can sometimes be challenging). As children mature, parents should learn about the views and preferences of children and consider them in making decisions.

In contrast, day-to-day and emergency decisions are usually made by the parent who is with the child at any given time. These include decisions such as homework, bedtime routines, chores, etc. Even for these decisions and routines, it is preferable for parents to consult and communicate with each other, as well as involving their children. While it must be recognized that each parent has the right to set “house rules”, it is helpful for children, especially young children, to have consistency and stability, and for some issues the health of a child may require certain standards of care.

Joint Decision-Making

We will make significant decisions together about our child's education, health care, extracurricular activities, language, and spirituality, and encourage input from children. If we cannot come to an agreement about a major decision, we will use the dispute resolution process set out in this document.

Parents Consult, with One Having Final Responsibility

Parent A will make decisions about our child's education, health care, extracurricular activities, language, spirituality and any other major decisions, after consulting with Parent B and the child.

Parents Consult, with Division of Responsibility

Parent A will make major decisions about our child's education and extracurricular activities, after consulting with Parent B and the child. Parent B will make major decisions about our child's health care, language, and spirituality, after consulting with Parent A and the child.

Sole decision making

Parent A will make major decisions about our child's education, health care, and religion, culture, language, spirituality and/or cultural events and any other major decisions, and keep Parent B informed of those decisions.

Day-to-Day Decisions

During the period when our child is living with or in the care of a parent, that parent can make day-to-day decisions about our child, for example about, doing homework, meals, visiting with their friends, use of computer, etc.

Emergency Decisions

In a health emergency, the parent with care of our child at that time will make the treatment decision, on the advice of medical personnel. If a parent makes an emergency health decision, the parent who has made the decision must immediately contact the other parent.

Medical Emergency Decisions or Death of a Parent

In the event of a parent's medical emergency, the other parent will assume the major decision-making responsibilities of our child until the situation becomes resolved.

In the event of the death of one parent, the other parent will care for our child, but the surviving parent will ensure that our child has continued relations with the relatives of the deceased parent.

Sharing Information and Communicating About the Children

Good communication is important for a positive co-parenting relationship and allowing both parents to best meet the needs of the children. It's important to set ground rules about what information you will share with each other about the children and how this will be done. It's also a good idea to decide how you will discuss parenting issues that come up from time to time.

Information About the Children

We agree to share information with each other on a regular basis about our child's welfare, including their education and school work, medical needs, health and dental care, counselling, extra-curricular activities and other important issues.

We agree that we may both ask for and be given information directly from the child's teachers, other school officials, health care providers (including both doctors and dentists), and any other person or institution involved with the child. Each parent will sign all necessary consents for the other parent to receive such information.

We agree to use a communication binder to share information that is pertinent to the child. We agree that we will transfer the log book with the child during these times.

We agree that we will use a mutually agreed technological calendaring schedule (like ourfamilywizard.com, with any fee to be split equally) to communicate and schedule events.

Communicating About the children

We agree that we will speak [indicate when or how often] by phone to discuss any issue related to the parenting of our child. In addition, we will communicate with each other by email or text message as needed.

Alternative for Communicating About the Children

We agree that we will meet every four months to discuss how our child is doing, and make plans for the coming months. In addition, we will communicate with each other by email as needed.

Exchange of Contact Information

We each agree that we will provide to the other parent our telephone number(s), email address, and home address. We also agree that if this contact information changes, we will provide the new contact information to the other parent immediately.

Attendance at Parent-Teacher Meetings

We agree that it is in the child's interests that we both attend parent-teacher meetings together.

Alternative for Attendance at Parent-Teacher Meetings

We agree that we will each arrange our own parent-teacher meetings.

Alternative for Attendance at Parent-Teacher Meetings

We agree that Parent A will attend all parent-teacher meetings and will advise Parent B of the child's progress.

We agree that both parents will be provided with separate report cards for the child. We agree that we will notify the school authorities to provide separate report cards.

Attendance at Child-Related Events

We agree that both parents may attend school events and extra-curricular activities.

Alternative for Attendance at child-related events

We agree that the parent with whom the child is residing at the time of the school event and extracurricular activity will be the sole parent to attend these events.

Medical & Dental Appointments

There are many other decisions and arrangements that you will need to make for your children, including who will take the children to different appointments with doctors, dentists or counsellors.

Many parents address these issues on an ongoing and informal basis. If you think, however, that these issues may result in conflict between you and the other parent, you should be clear about the issues in your parenting plan. It may also be helpful to consult with a counsellor, mediator, parenting co-ordinator or other family justice professional to assist during times of conflict.

Medical Appointments

The parents will jointly make decisions about medical and dental care, and Parent A will have primary responsibility for making medical and dental appointments and taking the child to these appointments, and will keep Parent B informed of all diagnosis and treatment.

Alternative for Medical Appointments

The parents will jointly make decisions about medical and dental care, and Parent A will have primary responsibility for making medical and dental appointments. The parents will each take the child to any appointments that fall within their parenting time, regardless of who made the appointment.

Alternative for Medical Appointments

Parent A will be responsible for taking the child to all appointments with a family doctor, and Parent B will be responsible for taking the child to all other dental and health care appointments (for example, counselling, physiotherapy).

It is also important for parents to discuss and agree to issues of payment for medical and dental treatment, including payment for prescription drugs. In some cases, parents may have insurance from an employer that covers some expenses, which may affect which parent takes the child to some appointments or purchases medication. Issues related to payment may be addressed in a parenting plan, or in a Separation Agreement as part of the arrangements for child support.

Buying Clothes and Sports Equipment

Children's clothing, sports equipment and toys will need to be purchased.

Many parents address these issues on an ongoing and informal basis. If one parent is paying child support to the other under a Separation Agreement or Court Order, it will often be expected that the recipient of child support will have the primary responsibility for paying for major purchases for the child, such as winter clothing, perhaps with the agreement or order specifying how some expenses, such as extracurricular activities, are allocated. If the parents have a "shared custody" arrangement under the *Child*

Support Guidelines, with roughly equal parenting time, it may be more important to address responsibilities for significant expenditures in the parenting plan.

Major Purchases for Children

Parent A will be responsible for making major clothing and sports equipment purchases for the child including winter clothes and boots, rain gear, and shoes. Parent A will pay for these from child support payments received. Each parent may choose to supplement the basic needs of the child by making gifts of clothing or other items to the child; any such gifts will become the property of the child, who may take them back and forth or leave them where the child chooses. Both parents will ensure that outdoor clothing and sports equipment travels back and forth with the child.

Alternative for Major Purchases for Children

Parent A will be responsible for making major clothing and sports equipment purchases for the child, including winter clothes and boots, rain gear, and shoes. Parent A will pay for these and keep track of these expenses, and every six months, seek reimbursement from Parent B for half of these expenses (providing receipts.) Both parents will ensure that outdoor clothing and sports equipment travels back and forth with the child.

Religion, Culture and Ethnicity

For some parents, their religious, cultural or ethnic heritage are very important, and they want to share their faith, culture or language with their children, while for other parents these may be less significant issues. If the parents have different faiths, cultural or ethnic identities that are important to them, addressing these issues may be especially important but challenging. Some possible clauses to deal with these issues are:

Religious Observance

The parents will each educate and expose the children to their own religion and cultural heritage as they see fit. Each parent will promote the children's respect for the religion and cultural heritage of the other parent, but neither will be expected to take the child to religious or cultural observances of the other parent.

Alternative for Religious Observance

Even though Parent A is not Catholic, the parents agree that the child will have First Communion in the Catholic Church, and that the child will continue to be raised in the Catholic faith by Parent B until the child reaches an age of maturity and makes her own decisions about religion and faith observance.

Alternative for Religious Observance

Even though Parent A is not an observant Jew, the parents agree that the child will be raised in the Orthodox Jewish Faith, and both parents will ensure that the dietary and other life rules of that faith are followed by the child until the child reaches the age of 15 years, when he may make his own decisions about faith observance. Both parents will support the child having instruction in the Hebrew language.

Ethnic Heritage

The parents acknowledge that Parent A identifies as Afro-Canadian while Parent B does not. The parents agree that the child may be identified at school or for other purposes as Afro-Canadian and Parent B will ensure that he is aware of and proud of this heritage.

Indigenous Heritage

If one or both parents have Indigenous identity, status, heritage, language, traditions or culture, there may be specific issues related to be addressed in a Parenting Plan. These might relate to involvement and attendance at community events. If the parents have different band status registration, they may want to address the child's registration in their Parenting Plan.

Indigenous Heritage

The parents acknowledge that Parent A is a member of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Nation and that the child is a registered member of that Nation. The parents agree that the child may be identified at school or for other purposes as a member of that Nation. Parent B will ensure that the child is proud of this heritage. The parents also acknowledge that Parent B is of Italian heritage, and Parent A will ensure that the child is proud this heritage.

Special Needs

Both parents should understand the health, mental health and special needs of their children and preferably should agree upon appropriate interventions involving doctors, therapists, treatment providers, and special education services. While this will require flexibility and good communication, it may be useful to set out some terms in a Parenting Plan for one or more children with special needs.

There may need to be provisions about testing, assessment, diagnosis, treatment and interventions. This will require decision-making, making of plans and implementation. There should also be consideration of costs and insurance issues, either in the Parenting Plan, or in a Separation Agreement or Court Order.

Special Needs of Child 2

Both parents acknowledge that Child 2 has a Learning Disability. After consulting with Parent B, Parent A will make decisions about his education and addressing his Learning Disability, including about possible medication. Parent A will keep Parent B informed about assessments and interventions, and Parent B will support the implementation of any plan made by Parent A related to the child's Learning Disability.

Documents

There are important documents related to your children such as health cards, immunization records, SIN cards, birth certificates and passports. It's important to decide who will obtain and be responsible for keeping these documents secure.

Documents

Parent A will keep the passport issued in the child's name, his SIN card, and his birth certificate [insert any other relevant documents] at their home, and these documents will be made available to Parent B as needed. Both parents will have copies of all of the important documents.

Passports

When parents are separated or divorced, Canadian Passport officials have rules about which parents' signatures are needed on passport applications. Unless both parents apply to-gether, they will usually want a copy of a parenting plan or court order to make sure that the parent who applies has the legal right to apply and that there are no restrictions on travel. You can help avoid delays in getting a passport for your children if you include a clause that sets out which of you must consent on the passport application.

Please note that in the second option below, Canadian Passport officials will only issue a passport to one parent alone if the child lives with that parent the majority of the time.

Passports

Parent A and Parent B must both consent for the purposes of a passport application for [insert child's name].

Alternative for Passports

Parent A can apply for the passport of [insert child's name] without the consent of Parent B.

Vacations and Travel

When one parent plans to travel with the children, especially on a long or faraway trip, it's important to give the other parent notice so they know:

- where the children are;
- how to contact the children while they're away; and
- when the children are returning.

The Government of Canada strongly recommends that children travelling across international borders carry a consent letter proving they have permission to travel from every person with the legal right to make major decisions on their behalf, if that person is not with them on the trip. You may wish to include a provision in your parenting plan that deals with consent letters. You may also wish to use the government [recommended consent letters for children travelling abroad](#).

Vacations and Travel

If Parent A or Parent B plans a vacation with the child, that parent will give the other parent at least 30 days' notice before the planned trip, providing the flight information, the trip itinerary, as well as contact information for the child during the trip.

Alternative for Travel

Where Parent A or Parent B plans international travel with the child, that parent will prepare, for the signature of the other parent, a consent letter proving that the child has permission to travel. The other parent will not unreasonably refuse to sign the consent letter.

Restrictions on Travel

Sometimes, a parent may be concerned about letting the child leave the province or country. This may happen, for example, where one parent is worried that the other parent might try to take the child to live in another country. If you are concerned that the other parent may try to take your child to another country without your consent, it's very important that you speak with a family law lawyer to make sure your parenting plan protects your child.

You should note that placing a restriction on your child's travel can affect passport applications. If your parenting plan says that the children cannot be removed from a certain province or territory (Option 1 below), passport officials may decide not to issue a passport. You would have to make a new agreement or obtain a court order that allows the child to travel. In cases where you and the other parent decide that the child cannot be removed from the country (or a city, province or territory) without the consent of both parents (Option 2 below), you may both need to sign the passport application. If you don't, passport officials might not issue a passport.

Option 1:[insert child's name] cannot be removed from Ontario [or Canada].

Option 2: [insert child's name] cannot be removed from Ontario [or Canada] without the written consent of both parents.

Option 3: [insert child's name] can only be taken from Ontario [or Canada] with the permission of both parents, and no permission will be given for a trip of more than ___ days. The parents both agree that for the purposes of the *Divorce Act* and the *Hague Convention on Child Abduction*, the child's habitual residence will remain Ontario, and that this will only be changed with permission of a court order or the explicit agreement of both parents.

Local Moves

For those governed by the *Divorce Act*, as of July 1, 2020 the legislation will require either parent to give the other notice of any change of residence, though this requirement may be waived by a court if there are family violence concerns. If you or the other parent moves within a local area, this will affect your parenting arrangement. For example, the other parent needs to know where to pick up and drop off the child. You may also want to give this information to extended family members. Your parenting plan can include provisions to make sure you and the other parent exchange address and contact information.

Local Moves

If either parent proposes to change their residence within the city of [insert city], at least 60 days before the move, they will provide the other parent with the new address, telephone number and the date of the move.

Alternative for *Local Moves*

If either parent proposes to change their residence within the city of [insert city], at least 60 days before the move, they will provide the other parent and the children's grandparents with the new address, telephone number and the date of the move.

Relocation

Moves of even relatively short distances can have a significant impact on children and their relationship with their parents, especially if children are going back and forth between the homes on their own, or the parents rely on public transit for moving the child. Relocation is defined in the *Divorce Act* as a change in the residence of a parent or child that is "likely to have a significant impact on the child's relationship" with a parent.

The *Divorce Act*, which governs cases where legally married parents are getting a divorce or have already divorced, has provisions regarding relocation, and that generally require a parent who plans to move to give 60 days' written notice to the other parent through a form available on the Department of Justice Canada website.

Even if you don't anticipate either parent relocating, circumstances may change for either parent and this can be a contentious issue if not addressed in a parenting plan.

Relocation

Neither parent may change their place of residence more than X kilometers from their present location within the city of [insert city], without providing the other parent with 60 days' notice of the proposed move and obtaining the written consent of the other parent or a court order to allow the move. The notice must include the location of the proposed new place of residence, the date of the proposed move, and, if necessary, a proposal for modification of the parenting time arrangement.

Alternative for Relocation

Parent A, with whom the children have their primary residence, may change the children's place of residence from the city of [insert city], but will not move the children more than one hour's drive from the present location. If Parent A proposes to change the child's place of residence, they must provide Parent B with 60 days' notice of the proposed move. The notice must include the address of the proposed new place of residence, the date of the proposed move, and if necessary a proposed parenting time arrangement.

If Parent A and Parent B cannot agree on revised parenting arrangements that may result from one parent relocating, they will use the family dispute resolution process set out in this document to resolve all issues with respect to the proposed move.

Parents who live in a large urban area may want to be precise about the area where they will both continue to reside, as a move within that area may affect travel times for schools and employment. It is, for example, preferable to avoid saying that both parents will continue to reside in the "Greater Toronto Area," but rather to say that both will continue to reside in Scarborough.

Reviewing, Monitoring and Changing the Parenting Plan

It is likely that as your children grow older, their needs and your circumstances will change, so you may have to make changes to your parenting plan. As children grow older, their views should be considered in reviewing the parenting plan.

If you're considering making significant changes, especially related to the child's living arrangements or child support, it's advisable to discuss the issues and show your draft amended parenting plan to a lawyer before you sign it to ensure that you understand your legal rights and responsibilities. This is particularly important if the terms of your

parenting plan are a part of a formal Separation Agreement or have been included in a Court Order, as those documents should be updated to make the changes legally enforceable.

First Parenting Plan Review

To make sure your parenting plan is working for your child and is practical for you and the other parent, you may want to include a provision for a “first review.” This would set a time for you to meet to discuss the parenting plan and how it's working. If your child is older, you should consider how to seek the input of your child about whether the parenting plan is meeting their needs. If you want to include a provision for a first review, it's important to allow enough time to try out the parenting arrangement first. For example, you may decide to meet after three months, and then annually or more often if issues arise.

Natural breaks in the year are often good times to start or end a new arrangement. For example, the end of the school year, the end of the summer or major school breaks are good times to make changes.

Plan Review

This plan will be reviewed on [insert date]. At this time, Parent A and Parent B will discuss the parenting plan and negotiate any changes that they agree are appropriate.

Regular Parent Meetings

Children need different things from you at different ages and stages of development, and their schedules will change as they grow older. This is especially true as children become more involved in activities. The younger your child at the time that you make the initial plan, the more you can expect that their needs will change and you will need to adjust your parenting plan. Think about whether your parenting plan should include a provision that you and the other parent meet regularly to look at the parenting plan and how it's working for your children.

Parent Meetings

Parent A and Parent B agree that they will meet [insert time period, e.g. annually, twice a year, three times a year], before the end of [insert a month or months, if applicable], to discuss the parenting plan. Prior to this meeting, each parent will review the parenting plan and bring a written list of issues for discussion to the meeting.

If Parent A and Parent B are unable to agree to changes to the parenting plan within 30 days of the [insert time period] meeting, they will use the dispute resolution method set out in this document.

Unanticipated Changes

Sometimes, you may have changes in your life that you didn't expect when you wrote your parenting plan. Even if you decide to hold regular meetings with the other parent, issues may come up between meetings. For example, if one of you has a new work schedule, you may need to change your parenting plan. It's a good idea to decide how you will address these types of changes.

Unanticipated Changes

If the circumstances of the child change, including the ability of Parent A or Parent B to meet the child's needs, we agree to the following process to amend the parenting plan: the parent who proposes a change to the parenting plan will advise the other parent in writing of the proposed change, and we will discuss the proposed change and attempt to come to an agreement to resolve the issue. If it is not possible to come to an agreement within 30 days [or some other time period], we will use the family dispute resolution process set out in this document to resolve the issue.

Family Dispute Resolution

An important reason for developing a parenting plan is to limit future conflicts. But things you weren't expecting can happen and can affect your parenting plan. Sometimes, you and the other parent may not be able to agree on how to handle these issues. Also, if your parenting plan provides that you will make some decisions jointly, you may not always be able to agree on every issue.

It's valuable to include a provision in your parenting plan that says how you will resolve disputes. For example, you may agree that before you make a court application to have a judge resolve a disagreement, you will try a type of non-court family dispute resolution process. An example of a clause to address this is provided below. While this example talks about mediation, you may wish to try other types of family dispute resolution, like collaborative law, arbitration, parenting co-ordination, or consultation with a respected community member. You may also wish to set out how you will divide the costs of the family dispute resolution process between you.

Family Dispute Resolution

If there is a future dispute between us that we cannot resolve on our own, we agree that we will ask [name a respected community member] to decide.

Alternative for Family Dispute Resolution

If there is a future dispute between us that we cannot resolve by negotiating on our own or with the assistance of lawyers, we agree that we will enter into mediation before we seek to have the issue resolved in court.

Costs of Mediation

The parents will share the costs of the mediation equally.

Parent A will pay [choose percentage] and Parent B will pay [choose percentage] percent of the costs of the mediation.

Signing and Witness of Signatures

Both for purposes of clarity and to help ensure legal enforceability, each parent should sign the Parenting Plan, and each signature should be witnessed. If professionals like lawyers have been involved in assisting the parents in making a parenting plan agreement, they would normally be the witnesses.

APPENDIX – EXAMPLE OF A PARENTING PLAN

Each parenting plan should be a unique, individually negotiated and drafted document, and reflect the need and circumstances of the specific parents and children. The following is NOT intended to be a precedent, but it is just one example of a plan, provided to illustrate how different parts of a parenting plan might relate to one another. There are issues that some parents might want to address that are not included, while others might decide that not all of these issues need to be addressed in their plan.

It is made by two parents who have children aged 6 and 9 years at the time that the parents made the agreement. Both parents were involved in the care of their children before separation, though the mother had a somewhat larger role in their care, and took 1 year maternity leaves after the birth of each child. Both are employed full time, with the mother's employment responsibilities including teaching a college class on Wednesday evenings. The children both attend the same school.

The parents are both Catholic, and Christmas is a major family holiday for them.

The parents separated four months before they completed this plan. They have agreed to have parenting time schedule based on the interim arrangements that they have developed, which takes account of some extracurricular activities and the work schedules of the two parents. It gives significant parenting time to each parent, but more nights and responsibilities to the mother. In their Separation Agreement, the parents have agreed that the Father, who has a higher income, will pay child support to the Mother.

Parenting Plan

January 10, 2020

INTRODUCTION

1. The following Parenting Plan applies to the children of Justin Jones and Sari Smith, who are Melissa (August 31, 2010) and David (born December 13, 2013.) This Parenting Plan is intended to be a domestic contract under the *Family Law Act* (Ontario) and is also intended to have effect in proceedings under the *Divorce Act*. The parties agree that it may be incorporated into a court order.
2. The parents are committed to this Parenting Plan, and will share in the parenting of their children, This Plan does not address child support obligations or other legal issues, which will be resolved separately.
3. This Plan sets out how we will share our parenting rights and responsibilities, starting with the principles that will guide our co-parenting of our children. The Plan addresses two major issues:
 - (i) how major child-related decisions are to be made; and
 - (ii) the time the Children will spend with each parent, including both a regular and holiday schedule.
4. Our Parenting Plan also deals with a number of other issues related to our co-parenting arrangement, including parental communication, what to do if changes are required, (e.g. telephone contact with the Children, extra-curricular activities, residential moves, etc.).
5. We are committed to the spirit of the Parenting Plan, which recognizes the Children's need for positive and ongoing relationships with both parents. Our primary goal is to ensure smooth implementation of a Parenting Plan, and to maximize healthy development of our children.
6. We recognize all possible changes in the circumstances of our children and ourselves cannot be foreseen when this Plan is being made. Our Children will mature and change, as will their needs. The parents may change residence (as per the terms in this Plan) or employment, or repartner, possibly precipitating new living arrangements and new family dynamics. The Parenting Plan, including the parenting time schedule may require revision over time, always considering the Children's developmental and emotional needs as the primary objective.
7. In the event there is a disagreement between the parents with respect to parenting arrangements or the Parenting Plan, or a future change in the Parenting Plan, the parents will follow the procedures for resolving disputes set out below regarding

Future Dispute Resolution, with an emphasis on resolving disputes in a child-focused way and without resort to the courts.

8. For clarity, in this Parenting Plan, when the Children are in the care of Mother, she will be referred to as the “resident parent,” and when the Children are in the care of Father, he will be referred to as the “resident parent.” The term “non-resident” may refer to either parent, as the context requires.

PARENTING PRINCIPLES

1. The parents will use their best efforts to parent cooperatively, keeping the Children’s best interests at the forefront. Their needs will be paramount when addressing child-related issues and concerns.
2. The parents will support the Parenting Plan in all ways. The parents will recognize the Children’s needs for positive and ongoing relationships with the other parent and make every effort to facilitate the relationships of the Children with the other parent and each parent’s extended family.
3. Neither parent will denigrate or disparage the other parent or members of their extended family, either overtly or covertly, in any communication with the Children or in their presence. Each parent will advise others, including their extended families and friends, to maintain the same standards, refraining from criticizing the other parent to or in front of the Children.
4. The parents will not speak with the Children directly or indirectly about any issues related to child or spousal support, property and financial issues between them.
5. The parents will not ask the Children to relay information between them and they will not be “letter carriers,” but rather the parents will communicate directly with one another about issues related to this Plan or other contentious issues. The parents will not communicate with each other about parenting or other issues about their relationship at transition times, joint activities or special events, except to address immediate childcare issues.
6. The parents will be polite and respectful to each other at all times, especially when the Children are present or nearby. In the presence of the Children or in public places, the parents will greet each other cordially. The parents will not discuss contentious issues in front of the Children. If one party considers that a discussion is not courteous, they will discontinue the conversation and will take the issue up at a different time.

7. The parents will respect each other's privacy and towards that end will refrain from initiating discussion or questioning the Children about the other parent's personal lives and activities.
8. The parents will not interfere directly or indirectly into the lives, activities, or routines of the Children when they are with the other party. Unless required otherwise in the Parenting Plan or in any court order or arbitration award or in the absence of these, without the consent of the other party, neither parent will schedule activities during the Children's time with the other parent.
9. The parents will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Children attend special occasions involving their extended family (e.g., special birthdays and anniversaries). While it is understood that this may not always be feasible, where possible the parents will schedule these occasions when the parents know the Children will be resident with them.
10. Where possible, access exchanges will take place at the Children's school. When the school is not open, the Children will normally be picked up and dropped off at Mother's home by Father or a person designated by him.
11. The parents will advise each other about any significant changes in their intimate adult relationship before telling the Children (including but not limited to: travel with children and a new partner, cohabitation, re-marriage, new baby).

PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

1. The Children have one life and two homes. They will reap benefits from knowing that both of the parents know about and are involved in their significant life events, whether those are positive or negative. In an effort to foster consistency, predictability, stability and continuity of care for the Children, the parents will communicate regularly regarding their routines, activities and experiences. For now, and until the parents agree otherwise, the parents may communicate by email, text, telephone or in-person. For time sensitive matters, when Melissa or David is ill or during emergencies, the parents will communicate by text or telephone.
2. Under regular circumstances, each parent will respond to communication within 24 hours. If the parents become aware or anticipate that the parents will not be able to do so, the parents will let the other party know. If a reply to a question and/or a request for a change requires more time than the agreed to response time of every 24 hours, the parents will advise that the requested information cannot reasonably be ascertained by then and advise when a response can be expected.

3. When Melissa or David is ill or is residing with either parent for uninterrupted vacation time, the resident parent will provide text or telephone updates and, if requested to do so, will facilitate a skype or facetime call.
4. All communications, written or otherwise, will be child-focused, cordial, and to the point about the Children. The parents will remain courteous and polite in communications with each other at all times. In addition, the parents will refrain from including information that reflects the personal opinions and feelings about the other party and concentrate on deciding what is in the Children's best interests. Any concerns or questions are permitted and will be presented neutrally without blame or criticism. There will be mutual respect for differences in parenting style/ approach between the homes.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

1. Until otherwise agreed to by the parents or ordered by the Court, we agree that our regular schedule will continue, as set out below:

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	Mother	Father (to 8pm)	Father	Mother	Father	Father	Father
2	Mother	Mother	Father	Father (to 8pm)	Mother	Mother	Mother
3	Mother	Father (to 8pm)	Father	Mother	Father	Father	Father
4	Mother	Mother	Father	Father (to 8pm)	Mother	Mother	Mother

2. The resident parent will be responsible for taking the children to school and bringing them home, arranging for after school transport and activities as he/she thinks appropriate.
3. If Melissa or David is ill in the morning and cannot attend school, the resident parent will contact the other party as soon as possible. Unless mutually agreed to otherwise, the ill child will remain in the care of the parent who had care of the child in the morning. If it is a transition day, the ill child will be taken to the home of the other parent by the resident parent at the time that school normally ends.
4. If the school calls and asks that Melissa or David be picked up early, the party reached by the day school will contact the other party to advise. Unless mutually

agreed to otherwise, the party who is scheduled to get the Children from school that day will pick up the Children from school and assume care as per the regular or holiday schedule.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The holiday schedule will supersede the regular residential schedule. It will be as set out below until otherwise agreed to by the parties or ordered by the Court.

1. Christmas and New Years – In even-numbered years the Children will reside with Father from December 24 (pick up at 11:00 a.m.) to December 25 at 11:00 a.m. The Children will reside with Mother from December 25 at 11:00 a.m. to December 26 at 11:00 a.m. The balance of the Christmas School Break will be shared equally with Mother having the first half in odd-numbered years. The exchange will take place on the Saturday in the middle of the break at 11:00 a.m. In even-numbered years the reverse is true.
2. March Break – Commencing in March 2020, in even-numbered years the Children will reside with Father commencing with the Monday (am) and ending on the Friday (pm) of the school break and will attach to his/her regular weekend. In odd-numbered years the children will reside with Mother.
3. Summer Break – Summer commences on the Friday after the last day of school and ends on the Sunday before the return to school. Each party will have a two-week period of uninterrupted time with the Children during July and August, preferably attached to his/her regular weekend. Mother will have her first choice of weeks in odd-numbered years, and Father in even-numbered years. The party with the first choice will advise the other in writing by January 15 annually. The party with the second choice will advise the other in writing by January 22 annually. The balance of the summer school break will follow the regular schedule.
4. Statutory Holidays / Long Weekends / PA Days – The resident parent will have the additional 24 hours added to his/her regular weekend. The non-resident parent will have 3 hours time on the Easter weekend and Thanksgiving weekend to celebrate a holiday meal with the Children. This statutory holiday provision will not apply during the summer if the Children are with either parent for his/her uninterrupted summer vacation time.
5. Children’s Birthdays – The non-resident parent may take the children out for dinner for up to 2 hours on each child’s birthday.

RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

When the parents cannot be available to care for the Children during the regular or holiday scheduled time for one overnight or longer, the other party will be given the “right of first refusal” to care for the Children prior to any other person providing childcare. If the other party cannot accommodate the request, the resident parent is

responsible for arranging and paying for alternate childcare and will inform the other party of who will be caring for the Children.

CHANGES TO SCHEDULE

1. This applies when either parent would like to have the Children for a special occasion when the scheduling of this occasion is out of their control. The parents recognize the importance of the Children being able to celebrate special occasions with family and good friends (e.g. family weddings, birthdays, special anniversaries, etc.) and every effort will be made for them to attend.
2. The parents will communicate by email about a request for a change or modification to the regular or holiday schedule when the need for a change arises and with as much notice as possible. A response will be provided as soon as possible and in any event within 24 hours of receiving the notice. If a definite answer cannot be given within that time, the parent will advise when they expect to be able to respond about whether or not the change is agreeable. Important requests will not be denied (e.g. a wedding or funeral).
3. Neither parent will make plans for the Children when they are scheduled to be with the other parent, without first having the consent of the other parent. In addition, the parents will canvas proposed changes to the schedule first with the other parent, and prior to mentioning anything to the Children about a change or a special activity.
4. Either parent may make an urgent request for assistance from the other if he/she or the Children are ill, or if an urgent situation arises. Each parent will use his/her best efforts to accommodate such a request.
5. In emergencies or for unforeseen circumstances (e.g., illness, inclement weather), significant changes in the drop-off and return times will be communicated to the other party by text, email and telephone as soon as these changes become known to the parent having to make them.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & LESSONS

1. The Children's preferences regarding activities and lessons will be considered and given age-appropriate weight. Either parent may enroll the Children on his/her time with the children. The parent enrolling a child in an activity will be responsible for any expenses associated with the activity, unless the parents agree otherwise. Neither parent will enroll the Children in any activities that extend to the other parent's time with the children, absent the written consent of the other parent.
2. The parents will provide full information about any and all activities to the other parent, within a reasonable time of the Children being enrolled in same.

3. The parents will encourage the Children to fully participate in their activities and lessons. It is understood that they will attend these activities reasonably consistently and the resident parent is responsible for transportation to and from the activities. The resident parent will decide when from time to time the Children will not attend because of illness or other special circumstances.
4. Both parents and any guests may attend “public events” related to extracurricular activities (e.g., games, recitals, performances, etc.). The parents will remain cordial and not discuss child-related arrangements or any contentious issues at that time and will require any of their guests to also remain cordial to the other parent.

THE CHILDREN’S CLOTHING AND BELONGINGS

1. The parents will each have toiletries, pajamas and as many belongings as possible for the Children in their homes. These items will not travel back and forth.
2. Mother will send one extra set of clothing in the Children’s backpack, which will be returned clean. The parents will ensure that any clothing, electronic devices or toys that move between the two homes rotates freely and is returned promptly.
3. Mother will have responsibility for the purchase of winter and other expensive clothing and footwear, and this clothing will move back and forth between the homes.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The parents will protect the privacy and safety of the Children and each other by limiting their exposure on social media as follows:

- (1) If pictures are posted on Facebook, the posting parent will not identify the other parent;
- (2) The privacy settings will be adjusted so that only family / close friends can view the photographs of the Children or other parent;
- (3) Family members and friends will be asked to comply with the above terms; and
- (4) Neither parent will post on any social media any comments about the other parent or any disputes between the parents.

SKYPE, TELEPHONE AND TEXT/EMAIL ACCESS

1. The parents acknowledge that Skype and telephone communication are alternate forms of access that can be beneficial for the children. The parents also recognize that the children may be unwilling to spend more than 5 or 10 minutes on any call.
2. Mother will provide each child with a cellphone that has text capabilities and an email address by their 12th birthday. Until that time, each child may text or email Father from Mother's account. Mother will pay all costs related to each cellphone.

DECISION-MAKING

The parents will jointly make decisions regarding the Children, in accordance with the provisions of this Parenting Plan. However, if they cannot agree, after consulting with Father, Mother may make the final decision about issues affecting the children's medical treatment and education.

General Medical and Health Care

1. The children's healthcare professionals will be: Dr. Norad (family doctor) and Dr. Kay (dentist). These professionals may be changed with notice from Mother to Father.
2. Mother will provide Father with the names, addresses and phone numbers of any additional professionals providing health care to the children (e.g., psychologists, social workers, counselors, dentists, physicians, occupational therapists, orthodontists, osteopath etc.).
3. The parents will both sign any consent forms required for the children to receive health care treatment.
4. The parents will each provide the other parent with copies of any medical or professional reports and records the parents have pertaining to the children. Either parent may obtain reports directly from any professionals associated with the child. If required by that professional, the parents will sign all necessary consents for the other parent to receive such information.
5. Mother will arrange and attend medical and dental appointments with the children.

Daily Health Decisions

1. The resident parent will make day-to-day decisions. The resident parent will advise the other of the diagnosis and treatment plan when a child is ill.

2. Timely updates within 24 hours by e-mail or text will be provided by Mother regarding the outcome of all medical or other healthcare appointments.
3. Mother will keep the children's health cards and vaccination records, and will provide Father with photocopies.
4. The original health card will accompany the Children when they travel outside the City of Toronto.

Major Medical and Health

1. Every effort will be made to notify the other parent by email and telephone at the time of an emergency visit by a child to a physician, specialist or hospital, as soon as it is feasible to do so. Both parents will make emergency decisions together, unless, after a concerted effort, one parent cannot be reached, in which case the present parent may make emergency decisions in consultation with the medical professionals.
2. Mother will notify Father of any potential major medical decisions, as well as provide Father with the name and number of the attending health care professionals.
3. Together or separately, the parents may consult with the health care professionals. The parents will use their best efforts to make mutually agreeable decisions in consultation with the treating health care professionals. In the event the parents cannot agree, Mother will make the final decision.

Religion

The children will be raised Catholic.

Education

1. The children will continue to attend George Frank Junior School.
2. The parents will each contact the school and provide their name and contact information. The school will have the names and contact information for both parents to call in case of an emergency. The parents will notify one another of any changes to the contact information.
3. The parents may attend parent-teacher meetings together or separately.
4. School calendars are available from the school. Both parents have the right to make inquiries and to be given information from the school about any issues arising with

respect to the children's education. Both parents will be entitled to receive directly from the school, copies of report cards and any other documents. It is each parent's responsibility to stay up to date on any relevant educational matters (e.g., professional activity days, special events, field trips, concerts, parent-teacher meetings, etc.). Each parent will make their own arrangements with the school directly to receive all the notices, newsletters, report cards, etc.

5. Mother will notify Father of any potential major educational decisions (e.g., program, school class placement, psycho-educational testing, remedial assistance, enrichment, speech therapy, tutoring, etc.), and provide Father with the names and numbers of the involved professionals. Together or separately, the parents will consult with the educational professionals. The parents use their best efforts to make mutually agreeable decisions in consultation with the professionals. In the event the parents cannot agree, Mother will make the final decision.

TRAVEL

1. When a parent travels without the children, that parent will provide a reliable telephone number to the resident parent in case of a child-related emergency or if the children want to contact the traveling parent.
2. With notice in writing, the parents may travel with the children during their regular or holiday scheduled time with them. Proposed travel that would involve changes to the regular or holiday schedule requires the consent of the other parent.
3. The parents agree to sign a travel consent letter for the authorities and the parents will each have a notarized copy of this letter. In addition, the parents will provide full itinerary information (i.e., dates of departure and return, location, accommodation name and address, flight or train number) to the other parent at least 30 days before the departure.
4. The travelling parent will arrange for travel health insurance for the Children when travelling outside of Canada.
5. Parent A will be the keeper of the Children's Canadian passports and birth certificates and will provide photocopies to Parent B. She will ensure the passports are current and have at least six (6) months remaining in the expiry period. She will obtain passports for the Children, without the signed consent of Parent B, and will provide him with the passports to facilitate his travel with the children.

RESIDENTIAL AND JURISDICTIONAL MOVES

1. A parent planning to move residences will give at least 60 days written notice to the other parent prior to any residential move.
2. The parents agree that their two residences should be reasonably close to facilitate effective implementation of the parenting arrangements. Neither parent will move their permanent residence more than 15 km from the other parent's current residence without the other's written consent or court order.
3. The parents agree that the Children will not be relocated outside the Greater Toronto Area without the agreement of both parents or a Court Order.

NO CHANGE OF NAME

Neither parent will take any action to change the name of either child without the written consent of the other parent.

FUTURE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. In the event of a dispute about our parenting plan that we are unable to resolve on our own or with the assistance of lawyers, we agree to participate in mediation before resorting to the court.
2. The mediator will be Fauzia Singh, and if she is unwilling or unable to serve, such other mediator as agreed to by the parents.
3. The fees for the mediator will be shared equally.

EVIDENCE OF THE AGREEMENT OF THE PARENTS

The parents have each signed this Agreement at Toronto, Ontario on the 10th day of January 2020 in the presence of a witness.

June Flower (witness)

Justin Jones

Bill Barnes (witness)

Sari Smith