

CHILD CUSTODY AGREEMENT (CO-PARENTING PLAN)

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This is a co-parenting agreement template for parents creating a custody arrangement (whether divorcing, separating, or never married). Courts must approve custody plans for them to be legally enforceable. This does not constitute legal advice.

CHILD CUSTODY AND PARENTING PLAN AGREEMENT

Date: [DATE]

PARTIES (PARENTS)

Parent 1:

- Name: [FULL LEGAL NAME]
- Address: [ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP]
- Phone: [PHONE]
- Email: [EMAIL]

Parent 2:

- Name: [FULL LEGAL NAME]
- Address: [ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP]
- Phone: [PHONE]
- Email: [EMAIL]

CHILDREN

Child Name	Date of Birth	Age	Current School
[FULL LEGAL NAME]	[DOB]	[AGE]	[SCHOOL]
[FULL LEGAL NAME]	[DOB]	[AGE]	[SCHOOL]
[FULL LEGAL NAME]	[DOB]	[AGE]	[SCHOOL]

1. LEGAL CUSTODY (Decision-Making Authority)

Legal custody determines who makes major decisions about the children.

[] Joint Legal Custody (Recommended — Most Common)

Both parents share decision-making authority for major decisions including:

- Education (school enrollment, tutoring, special education)
- Healthcare (medical, dental, mental health, medications)
- Religious upbringing

- Extracurricular activities
- Travel outside the country

☐ Sole Legal Custody to [PARENT NAME]

[PARENT NAME] has sole authority for all major decisions. The other parent shall be informed of decisions but does not have veto power.

Decision-Making Process (if Joint): (a) Both parents shall discuss major decisions and attempt to reach agreement; (b) If unable to agree within [7 / 14] days, the parents shall [attend mediation / Parent [1/2] shall have final decision on [CATEGORY]]; (c) In a medical emergency, the parent with the child may make immediate necessary decisions and inform the other parent as soon as possible.

2. PHYSICAL CUSTODY (Residential Schedule)

Physical custody determines where the children live.

☐ Option A: Joint Physical Custody — Equal Time

Week 1: Children with Parent 1 Week 2: Children with Parent 2 (Alternating weeks; exchange on [DAY] at [TIME])

☐ Option B: Joint Physical Custody — 2-2-3 Schedule

- Monday & Tuesday: Parent 1
- Wednesday & Thursday: Parent 2
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday: Alternating (Parent 1 one week, Parent 2 the next)

☐ Option C: Primary Custody with Visitation

Primary Residence: [PARENT NAME] Visitation Schedule for [OTHER PARENT]:

- Every other weekend: [FRIDAY TIME] to [SUNDAY TIME]
- One weeknight: [DAY] from [TIME] to [TIME]
- [OTHER ARRANGEMENTS]

☐ Option D: Custom Schedule

[DESCRIBE YOUR SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENT]

3. HOLIDAY & VACATION SCHEDULE

Holidays (Alternate Annually):

Holiday	Even Years	Odd Years
New Year's Day	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
Martin Luther King Day	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
Presidents' Day	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
Spring Break (first half/second half)	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
Easter / Passover	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
Memorial Day Weekend	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
July 4th	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]

Holiday	Even Years	Odd Years
Labor Day Weekend	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
Halloween	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
Thanksgiving	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
Christmas Eve	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]
Christmas Day	Parent [1/2]	Parent [2/1]

Special Days:

- Mother's Day: Always with Mother
- Father's Day: Always with Father
- Child's Birthday: [Alternate / Shared / With Primary Parent, other parent gets time on nearest weekend]
- Parent's Birthday: Children with that parent

Summer Vacation:

- Each parent gets [2 / 3 / 4] consecutive weeks of uninterrupted summer time
- Written notice required by [April 1 / May 1] of summer week selections
- Summer weeks [do / do not] override the regular schedule
- Priority: [Parent 1 selects first in even years / alternate selection priority]

Winter Break:

- First half (end of school through Dec 25 or 26): Parent [1/2] in even years
- Second half (Dec 26 or 27 through school start): Parent [2/1] in even years

4. TRANSPORTATION & EXCHANGES

4.1 Exchange Location: [At parent's home / Neutral location: [ADDRESS] / At school]

4.2 Transportation:

- [] Parent receiving the child picks up
- [] Parent ending their time drops off
- [] Split driving equally
- [] [CUSTOM]

4.3 Punctuality: Pickup/dropoff shall occur within [15] minutes of scheduled time. If more than [30] minutes late without notice, the exchange may be forfeited.

4.4 Third-Party Pickup: If a parent cannot be present, [APPROVED PERSONS — grandparent, partner, etc.] may conduct the exchange with [24 hours / same-day] notice.

5. COMMUNICATION

5.1 Between Parents:

- Primary communication method: [Text / Email / Co-parenting app (OurFamilyWizard, TalkingParents)]
- Response time for non-emergency matters: [24 / 48] hours
- Emergency: Call immediately

5.2 Between Parent and Child:

- Each parent shall allow reasonable phone/video contact with the other parent
- Suggested times: [Daily at [TIME] / Every other day / As requested by child]
- Neither parent shall monitor, record, or restrict these calls
- Age-appropriate: [No calls after 8 PM for children under 12]

5.3 Information Sharing: Both parents shall share:

- School reports, grades, and notices
- Medical records and appointment information
- Extracurricular schedules
- Emergency contact information for their household

6. RELOCATION

6.1 Neither parent shall relocate with the children more than [25 / 50 / 100] miles from their current address without: (a) [60 / 90] days' written notice to the other parent; AND (b) Written consent of the other parent OR court approval.

6.2 Notice shall include: new address, reason for move, proposed revised parenting schedule.

7. EXPENSES

7.1 Basic Support: [Child support per court order / Per separate agreement of \$[AMOUNT] per month from [PARENT] to [PARENT]].

7.2 Shared Expenses (split [50/50 / per income ratio]):

- Uninsured medical/dental expenses
- School tuition and fees
- Extracurricular activity costs (agreed upon in advance)
- Childcare/daycare costs

7.3 Individual Expenses: Each parent pays for expenses during their custodial time (food, entertainment, clothing for their home).

7.4 Health Insurance: [PARENT NAME] shall maintain health insurance for the children. Premiums [are / are not] credited toward child support.

8. PARENTING GUIDELINES

Both parents agree to: (a) Not disparage the other parent in the children's presence; (b) Not discuss legal/financial disputes in front of the children; (c) Not use the children as messengers between parents; (d) Support the children's relationship with both parents; (e) Give [48 hours / 1 week] notice of schedule changes when possible; (f) Offer the other parent right of first refusal if unable to care for the children for more than [4 / 8 / 24] hours during their custodial time; (g) Not introduce new romantic partners to the children until the relationship is [3 / 6] months old (or [there are no restrictions]); (h) Maintain consistent rules about [bedtime / screen time / homework] at both homes (or [each household sets its own rules]).

9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

If parents disagree on any matter: 1. Discuss directly (in person or by phone) 2. If unresolved: mediation with [NAMED MEDIATOR / court-appointed mediator] 3. If still unresolved: petition the court

Neither parent shall withhold visitation as a remedy for disputes.

10. MODIFICATIONS

This Agreement may be modified by: (a) Written agreement of both parents (filed with the court for enforceability); OR (b) Court order upon petition by either parent showing a material change in circumstances.

11. GOVERNING LAW & JURISDICTION

This Agreement is governed by the family law of the State of [STATE]. Jurisdiction for any disputes shall be in [COUNTY] County, [STATE].

SIGNATURES

Parent 1: _____

Parent 2: _____

Witness (optional): _____

NOTARIZATION (Recommended for court filing)

State of [STATE], County of [COUNTY] On [DATE], before me personally appeared [PARENT 1 NAME] and [PARENT 2 NAME], who acknowledged they signed this Agreement voluntarily.

Notary Public: _____

This Child Custody Agreement template is provided by ClearLegalTips.com for general informational purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice. Custody laws vary significantly by state. A custody agreement must typically be approved by a court to be legally enforceable. The court's primary consideration is always the best interest of the child. Consult a licensed family law attorney in your jurisdiction.

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