

PARENTING ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN MEDIATED AGREEMENTS

1. Decision-making
 - What are major decisions?
 - How will major decisions be made (jointly, by one parent, by one parent in consultation with the other)
 - What are day-to-day decisions?
 - How will day-to-day decisions be made?
 - Are there any known issues? i.e. behavioural problems, religious issues, health issues
 - What if there is a disagreement regarding a parenting decision?
 - Are there any parenting values and principles to be incorporated?
2. Regular living arrangements (short-term, long term)
 - How much time with each parent
 - Is there a primary residence?
 - What kind of schedule
 - How flexible will arrangements be
 - Will there be make-up time if missed?
 - Will the other parent be first contact if one parent can't care for the children
 - How will children transition (transportation, belongings, etc.)
 - When will changes be made?
3. Holiday residential schedule
 - March Break
 - Easter/Thanksgiving
 - Family Day, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday, Labour Day
 - Vacation
 - Children's birthdays
 - Parents' birthdays
 - Christmas
 - Religious holidays
 - Other special days
4. Other parenting issues
 - Contact with each parent while in the other parent's home
 - Introduction of new partners
 - Attendance at school, extra-curricular activities
 - Decisions regarding extra-curricular activities (how many, costs, types)

- Decisions regarding other activities (birthday parties, etc.)
 - Emergency contact for schools, etc.
 - Travel (passports, notice for trips, itinerary)
 - Discipline issues
 - Homework issues
 - Relationship with extended family
 - Who keeps documents (health cards, birth certificates, passports)
 - How will parents communicate?
 - Who goes to medical appointments, dental appointments?
 - What happens when child is sick – absence from school
 - Who may transport child?
 - Does child need counselling?
 - Do any safety issues need to be incorporated? (helmets, riding in backseat, etc.)
 - Will there be a restriction on one or both parent's moving? If so, what geographic limitation is appropriate?
 - What happens if one parent passes away?
 - What happens if both parents pass away?
5. Financial support for children
- Consider incomes and Child Support Guidelines
 - What special or extraordinary expenses are there?
 - Are there other expenses that will be shared?
 - What are the plans for post-secondary education?
 - When will a review be done?
 - What medical/health benefits are available? How will expenses be managed?
 - What life insurance is available? Is this adequate? Who will be trustee for the children