

TEMPLATE FOR PARENTING PLAN AGREEMENTS

A GUIDE FOR YOUR CHILD'S BEST INTEREST



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INTRODUCTION

Navigating the complexities of co-parenting after separation can be challenging, but an effective parenting plan can provide a structured and supportive framework that prioritises your child's best interests. A well-crafted parenting plan outlines the care arrangements for children, ensuring that both parents are on the same page regarding their responsibilities and the child's needs.

A parenting plan is a written agreement that addresses various aspects of your child's life, including living arrangements, education, special occasions, and communication between parents. By setting clear expectations and responsibilities, a parenting plan helps to reduce conflicts and provides a stable environment for your child.

This guide will walk you through the essential components of a parenting plan, factors to consider for your unique family situation, the importance of consensus between parents, and the legal implications of these agreements. Whether you are newly separated or looking to improve your current co-parenting arrangements, this checklist will help you create a comprehensive plan that fosters a positive and nurturing environment for your child.

CHECKLIST FOR CREATING AN EFFECTIVE PARENTING PLAN

KEY ASPECTS TO COVER

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

- Determine where the children will live.
- Decide if the children will spend equal time with both parents or primarily reside with one parent.

EDUCATION

- Make decisions about school choices and related activities.
- Plan for school holidays and other educational matters.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

- Outline how to manage birthdays, holidays, and other special days.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Define the responsibilities for major child welfare decisions (health, education, religion).
- Decide on equal shared parental responsibility or sole parental responsibility if needed.

COMMUNICATION

- Establish how parents communicate about the child's needs and other important matters.

DETERMINING IMPORTANT FACTORS

CHILD'S AGE AND NEEDS

- Consider the specific needs and age of the child.

DISTANCE BETWEEN RESIDENCES

- Assess the practicality of travel between parents' homes.

SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Account for the child's school and extracurricular commitments.

SAFETY CONCERNS

- Address any history of domestic violence or safety concerns.

EXTENDED FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- Include the involvement of grandparents or other significant family members.

DEVELOPING A CONSENSUS

AGREEMENT ON DETAILS

- Consider the specific needs and age of the child.

FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- Use a family dispute resolution practitioner if parents can't agree.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

LEGAL BINDING NATURE

- Understand that parenting plans are not legally binding.
- Seek a consent order from the Family Court for enforceability.

PARENTING CONSENT ORDER

- Apply for a court-approved parenting consent order to make the plan legally enforceable.
- Seek legal advice to ensure the order meets the family's needs and the child's best interests.

PARENTAL COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

REGULAR UPDATES

- Maintain regular communication about the child's progress and needs.

SUPPORT NETWORKS

- Utilise support from legal professionals to guide and support the process.

An effective parenting plan requires thorough consideration of the child's best interests, clear communication, and legal advice to ensure all aspects are comprehensively covered and enforceable if needed.

What Our Clients Say



Five stars for a five star company. Excellent staff and excellent legal advice. I would highly recommend them to you

Lord Magrathea



Thanks Rowena, from Ferrall & Co Lawyers for your very knowledgeable friendly professional attitude to getting my case solved.

Shane Gibbs

For personalised assistance, take advantage of our Free 30-minute Family Law Consultation. Our experienced legal team is here to provide the support and guidance you need during this challenging time.

Let Ferrall & Co. Lawyers help you achieve a smooth and hassle-free divorce. **Contact us today!**