

**Homework for the Co-Parenting Discussion**

Please remember to place the needs and interests of your children over your own. Children are not property to be “divided”. They are not “prizes” to be won. They are individuals with thoughts and feelings of their own. Please respect them!

- ❖ Daily Schedule – Prepare several possible parent-child “everyday” contact schedules acceptable to you.
- ❖ Special Days – Prepare a list of the days (holidays) that are special to you. List several optional schedules for contact with your child(ren) on those days.
- ❖ Extended Vacations – List several vacation contact schedules as options which would be acceptable to you. Include all periods of one week or longer.
- ❖ Relatives and Others – List people with whom the child(ren) may and may not have contact. How will you control contact?
- ❖ Moving – Specify what a “move” means to you (time, distance, school district, other factors). Prepare several alternative contact schedules for dealing with potential moves.
- ❖ Sharing Information – List information you believe *needs* to be shared. Note additional information you are willing to share. How will you accomplish this sharing process?
- ❖ Medical Emergencies – How will medical emergencies be handled? Will you each have insurance cards?
- ❖ Custody – Consider how decision-making will take place in each area of child rearing: religion, education, medical treatment, behavior standards and social interaction. Can you make any prior agreements (eg., religion, education)?

## SUPPORT ISSUES

- **Child Support:** How do you plan to determine child support? You may choose to use the tables prepared by the state or you may choose to deviate from the 'standard' amount based upon your circumstances. If both parties do not agree to a deviation, the standard amount will most likely apply.
- **Health Insurance:** Who will be responsible to provide health insurance for the child(ren)? How will the premium be divided? Will dental and eye-care insurance be provided? If so, by whom? How will those premiums be divided?
- **Uncovered Medical, Dental and Eye-Care Costs:** Who is responsible for these costs? If shared, what percentage will each parent be responsible for? How will reimbursement or payment be handled?
- **Dependency Exemptions:** Who will claim the child(ren) as exemptions on future tax returns?
- **Life Insurance Policies:** How do you plan to contribute to the financial expenses of raising your child(ren) should you die?
- **Extra-curricular Activity Expenses:** How do you plan to share in the expense of extra-curricular activities, camps, etc. for your child(ren)?
- **College or Post-Graduate Education:** Do you plan to help your child(ren) with the expense of post-high school education? If so, would you like to make a plan regarding preparing for these expenses?
- **Day-Care Expenses:** If day-care is required, who will be responsible for this expense? If shared, what portion will each parent pay?
- **Optional expenditures:** How will decisions be made regarding optional expenditures for your child(ren)? Optional expenditures are any costs that are not necessary for the health, safety and well-being of your child.