

## **PARENTING CONSULTANT AGREEMENT**

As a parenting consultant, we will use a collaborative effort to assist the parents to successfully parent their children in dual households. We will facilitate communications, promote understanding, focus family members on their interests, and seek creative solutions to problems that enable family members to reach their own agreements. In the event that an agreement between the parents cannot be reached, the parents agree to accept the decisions of the Parenting Consultant.

**FEES:** Our fee for parenting consulting is \$200 per hour, plus any reasonable out of pocket expenses. Included in this fee is the time spent traveling, interviewing, observing, reading and reviewing documents, necessary consultation with other professionals, telephone calls, emails, writing letters and agreements, and any other time spent. We reserve the right to raise our fees no more than once a year. You will be notified at least 60 days in advance of a fee increase. Office meetings may incur a \$20/hour facilities charge.

Each parent is required to pay \$1000 on retainer prior to the intake interview. Statements reflecting charges and payments to the account will be sent monthly. If payment is not received in a timely manner, we reserve the right to discontinue our services with no further responsibility. Upon request from both parents, any remaining retainer will be refunded.

If one parent does not replenish his/her retainer in a timely manner, the other parent may submit funds on the nonpaying parent's behalf in order for the Parenting Consultant to be able to continue providing services. Invoices will clearly indicate that payments are being made on the nonpaying parent's behalf so that reimbursement can be sought by the Court. We will continue to seek the nonpaying parent's input on decisions but will not be able to make decisions requested by a parent who is not current in their payments.

**TIME:** We will contact both parties as soon as possible, but in no event later than five days after initial contact. If the parties do not reach agreement, the parenting consultant will make a decision no later than five days after receiving all information necessary to make a decision and after the final meeting or conference with the parties.

**PROCESS:** The Parenting Consultant will work with both parties to determine areas of parental disagreement and how these issues can be resolved for the best interests of the child(ren). We will meet together as often as necessary to work out the terms to the agreement. Both parties will be given the opportunity to raise any concerns they may have and to have input into resolution. If the parties are unable to reach agreement, the consultant will make the decision. If either of the parties disagrees with the decision of the Parent Consultant, that party must obtain a court hearing to contest the decision.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** Because our recommendations are based on the best interests of the child(ren), it may sometimes be necessary to discuss with one parent what the other parent has told us. This will not be done unless it is necessary to explore a particular issue with that parent. However, both parties should remember that all notes are discoverable should the matter go to trial and that we may be required to disclose anything said to us by either party if subpoenaed.

**RELEASES:** Each parent agrees to sign all releases necessary for us to obtain reports and information from others. This may include psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, teachers, school officials, mental hospitals, criminal courts, and attorneys.

**REQUIRED DISCLOSURE:** We will report any threats of violence against the other party and any suspected child abuse.

**APPOINTMENT CONTINGENCY:** If your Court order requires submission of this contract with the order, it is the parties' responsibility to submit it to the Court. Once we receive the parties' signed contracts, our role as your Parenting Consultant will commence.



**ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNATURE**

I have read the Parenting Consultant Agreement and agree to abide by its provisions.

I agree to be responsible for \_\_\_\_\_% of the fees.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNATURE PAGE TO BANGA & MANNING, LLP.  
RETAIN THE PARENTING CONSULTANT AGREEMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.**