

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner,  
and

Civil Action No.: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent.

### **PARENTING PLAN**

[Choose one (1)]

- This plan is uncontested. The parties have agreed to the terms of this plan, and this information has been furnished by both parties to meet the requirements of O.C.G.A. §19-9-1. The parties agree on the terms of this plan. By signing this plan, the parties affirm the accuracy of the information provided.
- This plan is contested. This plan has been proposed by \_\_\_\_\_ [Name], and the information has been furnished to meet the requirements of O.C.G.A. §19-9-1. By signing this plan, the proposing party affirms the accuracy of the information provided.
- This plan has been prepared by a judge.

[Choose one (1)]

This plan

- is a new plan.
- modifies an existing *Parenting Plan* dated \_\_\_\_\_ [Date].
- modifies an existing Order dated \_\_\_\_\_ [Date].

<b>Child's Name</b>	<b>Year of Birth</b>

**This *Parenting Plan* shall be filed at the time of any *Petition* or *Answer*, and in any event, not less than ten (10) days before any final hearing, and not less than fifteen (15) days before any final hearing. A copy must be served to the opposing party or their attorney, if they have one.**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSED PLAN WHEN CUSTODY OR VISITATION IS CONTESTED**

1. Each party shall attach a schedule of their own employment hours for the last year and as far into the future as can be reasonably predicted.
2. Attach a schedule of the hours children will be in daycare. Identify the provider, including extended family or support group (neighbors, church, etc.). If the children are in school, provide separate schedules for the school year and summer vacation.
3. Attach documentation for any medical conditions of the children or the parent that are relevant to the custody or visitation decision.
4. If proposing home schooling or other special education provisions, attach credentials of the proposed educator or institution.
5. Attach a schedule for the children's proposed school district or private school as far in the future as the district provides.
6. If proposing split custody, attach a detailed explanation of how split custody will be in the best interests of each child and the children, collectively. Include any Guardian ad Litem (GAL), psychological, or other recommendations, and any elections of children over 14.
7. If restricted visitation is sought, attach a detailed statement of reasons for the request, including but not limited to: persons, places, activities, or other matters from which visitation should be restricted. Include any supervision or enforcement provisions and how the cost will be divided.
8. Each party shall attach an affidavit affirming or denying the existence of any criminal convictions, family violence orders, and child welfare (DFCS) investigations in which they are involved. If any such exist, identify every criminal conviction, family violence order, and DFCS investigation or safety plan.

## I. CUSTODY AND DECISION MAKING

### Definitions:

**Physical custody** refers to the parent with whom the children live.

**Legal custody** refers to the parent who makes decisions about the children.

### Legal Custody: [Choose one (1)]

- with the Petitioner
- with the Respondent
- Joint

### Primary Physical Custody: [Make a selection for each child]

Name	Petitioner	Respondent	Joint
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Day-to-Day Decision Making:

Each parent shall make decisions regarding the day-to-day care of a child while the child is residing with that parent, including any emergency decisions affecting the health or safety of the child.

### Major Decision Making: [Make a selection for each situation]

The parties shall consult each other and attempt to reach consensus on major decisions.

Should they be unable to reach consensus, final decisions will be made as follows:

	Petitioner	Respondent
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Emergency Healthcare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious Upbringing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extracurricular Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## II. PARENTING TIME

If the parties cannot otherwise agree, during the term of this *Parenting Plan*, the non-custodial parent, or in joint custodial agreements the  Petitioner/  Respondent, shall have at a minimum the following parenting time:

[Check all that apply]

- (a) First and third weekend of each month
- (b) First, third, and fifth weekend of each month
- (c) Second and fourth weekend of each month
- (d) Every other weekend, starting on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_ [Date].
- (e) Each \_\_\_\_\_ starting at \_\_\_\_\_  a.m./  p.m. and ending at \_\_\_\_\_  a.m./  p.m.
- (f) Other:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Weekday times include:

[Check all that apply]

- (1) None
- (2) Every \_\_\_\_\_ evening
- (3) Every other \_\_\_\_\_ evening during the week prior to a non-visitation weekend.
- (4) Every \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ evening
- (5) Other:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- For the purposes of this *Parenting Plan*, a weekend will start at \_\_\_\_\_  a.m./  p.m. on  Thursday/  Friday/  Saturday/  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ and end at \_\_\_\_\_  a.m./  p.m. on  Sunday/  Monday/  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Weekday time will begin at \_\_\_\_\_  a.m./  p.m. and will end at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. when the children return to school the next day.
- This parenting schedule begins on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_ [Date] or on the date of the Court's Order.

[Complete each section]

### **Fall Vacation**

The day-to-day schedule shall apply except as follows:

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beginning on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_ [Date].

### **Winter Vacation**

The  Petitioner/  Respondent shall have the children for the first part of vacation from the day and time school is dismissed until December \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_  a.m./  p.m. in  odd numbered years/  even numbered years/  every year.

The other parent will have the children for the second part of vacation from the day and time indicated above until \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_  a.m./  p.m. The parties shall alternate first and second periods each year. OR the parties have chosen a different winter vacation plan:

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### **Spring Vacation**

The day-to-day schedule shall apply except as follows:

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beginning on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_ [Date].

### **Summer Vacation**

The day-to-day schedule shall apply except as follows:

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beginning on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_ [Date].

**Note:** Parents will confer with each other by \_\_\_\_\_ [Date] each year to confirm school breaks/ vacations and by \_\_\_\_\_ [Date] to determine summer parenting schedule.

## Special Days and Holidays

[Indicate whether the children will be with the parent on ODD or EVEN years or EVERY year]

Holiday	With Petitioner	With Respondent	Start/ Stop Time
Martin Luther King Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Mother's Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Father's Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
July Fourth	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Labor Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Halloween	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Thanksgiving Day and Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Child's Birthday	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Free School Days	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Petitioner's Birthday	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Respondent's Birthday	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	
Religious Holidays	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Odd-number years <input type="checkbox"/> Every year	

## Schedule Conflicts

When holiday parenting times conflict with extended/ summer parenting time:

[Choose one (1)]

- (a) Holiday schedule will be observed
- (b) Extended visitation will be uninterrupted
- (c) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If there is conflict between the regular schedule and the holiday schedule, the holiday schedule will prevail.

For the purposes of this *Parenting Plan*, the holiday will start and end as follows:

[Check all that apply]

- (a) Holidays that fall on Friday will include the following Saturday and Sunday
- (b) Holidays that fall on a Monday will include the preceding Saturday and Sunday
- (c) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Transportation Arrangements

[Complete each section]

Exchanging the children between parents shall take place as follows:

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Payment of long distance transportation costs, if applicable, will be paid by:

Petitioner/  Respondent/  both equally. Long distance for the purpose of transportation is defined as: \_\_\_\_\_

Other transportation arrangements (ex: disabled parent, parent without valid driver's license, other approved drivers, etc.):

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### **Transportation Arrangements, continued**

Should the parent picking up the children exceed a \_\_\_\_\_ minute grace period without proper notification or alerting the other parent by phone of an unavoidable breakdown or delay, the parenting time for that period is forfeited.

Should either party repeatedly cause a delay by not having children prepared for exchange or being late for pickup or return, a modification of parenting time may be sought. Repeatedly causing a delay is defined as:

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### **Relocation**

If either parent decides to relocate more than \_\_\_\_\_ miles away from the other parent's home, the moving parent will give the other parent written notice of the intent to relocate no less than  30 days/  60 days/  90 days/  180 days prior to the date of moving.

### **Communication Access**

[Check all that apply]

The parents agree that when the children reside with one parent, that the other parent will have the right to unimpeded telephone conversations with the children as follows:

- (a) Unrestricted telephone access during reasonable hours
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_ telephone calls to the children per day/ week. The duration of each call shall not exceed \_\_\_\_\_ minutes. Calls may take place within the following times:  

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- (c) Other provisions for telephone/ e-mail access:  

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## Other Parenting Time Provisions

[Check all that apply]

- (a) Each parent shall promptly notify the other parent of a change of address, phone number, or cell phone number so that the other parent may: exercise their parenting time, notify the other parent as needed, and reach the children while they are in the other parent's household.
- (b) When making childcare arrangements while the children are with each parent, the following apply (ex: age before children will be left alone, appropriate caregivers, right of first refusal to provide care, etc.):  

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- (c) Parents will consult with each other before scheduling any activity that will impact time the other parent spends with children.
- (d) Other:  

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## Restrictions to Parenting Time

[Check all that apply]

- (a) Supervised parenting time shall apply during the day-to-day schedule as follows:

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Person supervising/ organizing: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsibility for cost:  Petitioner/  Respondent/  Both equally

Any transition to alter supervised parenting would require:  

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- (b) Due to past instances of family violence, the address of the children and victim of family violence shall be kept confidential. The protected parent shall promptly notify the other parent, through a third party, of any change in contact information necessary to conduct visitation.

### III. ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMATION

[Check all that apply]

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §19-9-1(b)(1)(D), both parents are entitled to all of the children's records and information including but not limited to: education, health, extracurricular activities, and religious communication. Designation as a non-custodial parent does not affect a parent's right to equal access of these records.

- (a) Proposed limitations to access rights:  

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- (b)  Petitioner/  Respondent will notify school authorities where children are enrolled each year to list both parents to receive all notifications and reports.
- (c) Each parent shall promptly notify the other parent of any information received through the children concerning parent meetings, reports, and school activities in which the children may be engaged or interested.
- (d) Other information sharing provisions:  

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### IV. MODIFICATION

Over time, as the children and family circumstances change, parties may agree in writing to vary the parenting schedule. Such altered agreement shall not be a binding court order and shall not constitute a defense for contempt unless agreed upon in writing. Custody shall only be modified by the Court.

Should parents disagree about this *Parenting Plan* or wish to modify it, they must make a good faith effort to resolve any issues between them.

- Prior to involving the Court in resolving disagreements, parties will attempt further mediation, consultation with a family counselor or child specialist, or:  

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### V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

If necessary, attach an addendum detailing any special circumstances of which the Court should be aware (ex: health issues, educational issues, etc.).

## VI. PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below, the party or parties acknowledge that:

- A close and continuing parent-child relationship and continuity in the children's life will be in the children's best interests;
- The children's needs will grow and change as the children mature. A good faith effort has been made to take this growth into account to minimize the need for future modifications;
- The information provided is true and correct.

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Petitioner, *Self-Represented*

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[Name]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sworn and affirmed to me, this  
day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Seal)

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Respondent, *Self-Represented*

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[Name]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sworn and affirmed to me, this  
day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Seal)