

In re the marriage of:

(Petitioner's name),

Petitioner

Case No. _____

-and-

(Respondent's name),

Respondent

(MOTHER'S/FATHER'S) PROPOSED PARENTING PLAN

I am submitting this plan to the court and the other parent because I and our child(ren)'s other parent have not yet been able to agree on arrangements for our child(ren).

I understand that the purpose of this document is to provide reasonably specific information to the court, the other parent, and other professionals involved in our case about what my ideas are for raising our child(ren) and how I intend to make them work. The plan I am providing is my best effort to tell the court what I believe the best living arrangements are for our child(ren) and to provide for their needs. I cannot, of course, be 100 percent accurate or predict the future with certainty because things may happen beyond my control which would require changes in this plan. But this document is my good faith effort to provide information.

I understand Wisconsin law requires me to answer a series of questions about my plan for caring for our child(ren) and that the format of this document also gives me some guidance about the purpose of the questions. I also understand that Wisconsin law requires that a proposed parenting plan be filed with the court before the pretrial conference and that if I fail to file a plan, I may lose the right to object to the plan submitted by the other parent unless I can show good cause for my delay.

I request the right to follow up and add to my answers or modify them after the other parent and I have seen each other's plans. I understand it is the court's hope that we will be able to agree upon a plan once we understand what the other is seeking.

The plan pertains to the following child(ren):

(If space is insufficient for you to fully answer a question in the space provided, please continue your answer on an attached sheet of paper.)

1. **What form of legal custody are you seeking--joint or sole?** *Joint* legal custody means shared decision making. It does not refer to where the child(ren) reside(s). *Sole* legal custody gives the

custodial parent the right to make the major decisions even when the other parent disagrees. *Wisconsin law assumes that the court will grant joint legal custody.* If you are seeking sole legal custody, you need to inform the court why you think joint legal custody would not work.

Answer: _____

2. Do you believe that you and the other parent can make decisions together relating to major concerns affecting your child(ren)? Yes No

In many separated families, parents agree on most major issues (e.g., what religion the child(ren) will be raised in, what school the child(ren) will attend, non-emergency medical care) but have disagreements on certain specific issues. The court does have the power to order joint custody in general but make specific orders about which parent has the ultimate decision making power on a specific issue if the two parents do not agree. If you do not believe that joint custody/joint decision making will work, then the court needs to know who (you or the other parent) will make the major decisions in the following areas if the court accepts your plan and why you or the other parent is better equipped to make the decisions in that area:

Education

Religion

Choice of child care provider

Non-emergency medical care

Extracurricular activities

3. How do you propose that you and the other parent will handle any disputes on decision making in the above areas? If you are proposing joint custody or anticipating that the court may order it even if you object, you need to think about how disagreements over childrearing, particularly on major issues like education, medical care, religious upbringing, day care, and extracurricular activities, will be handled.

Answer: _____

4. **If you are the one to decide these issues--**

a. **Where would the child(ren) go to school?** If this is a change from a present school, why are you proposing a change?

Answer: _____

b. **Who would be the child(ren)'s child care provider or regular babysitter when you are not available to care for the child(ren)?** If this is a change from the present provider, why are you proposing a change?

Answer: _____

c. **Who would be the child(ren)'s doctor or health care provider?** If this is a change from their present doctor, clinic or health care provider, why are you proposing a change?

Answer: _____

d. **What would the child(ren)'s religious commitment be, if any?** The court cannot favor one parent over the other on the basis of religion. The purpose of this question is to determine whether you and the child(ren)'s other parent have any serious disagreement about religious issues. Please do not think that you have to make up a religious commitment or preference if you really do not have one. What, if any, religion have the child(ren) been raised in the past? If you are proposing a change, state why you are proposing a change.

Answer: _____

5. **Does any child have any exceptional health needs?** Yes No
If yes, describe fully.

Answer: _____

6. **Does any child have any exceptional educational needs?**
 Yes No If yes, describe fully.

Answer: _____

7. **Do you or the other parent have health or dental insurance in effect covering the child(ren)?** Medical Yes No Dental Yes No

If so, briefly describe the coverage (or attach a copy of the plan). _____

Which parent provides the coverage? _____

What is the amount of the deductible and co-pay? _____

What is the monthly cost of the premium attributable to the child(ren) (the difference between individual and family coverage)? _____

8. **What placement schedule do you think is best for your child(ren)?** *Placement* refers to the day-to-day residence of the child(ren). The court wants to know when you think the child(ren) should be with you and when you think the child(ren) should be with the other parent. In answering this question, the law requires that you consider placement during the entire year--school period, school vacation periods (spring, summer, and winter), and holidays. You may answer this question in words but it would also be very helpful if you could attach a calendar that shows how your ideas would work out over the course of a year. (A calendar is not a requirement but it would assist the court.) A holiday schedule and alternate placement schedule possibilities, which may be of assistance to you, are also attached if you care to use them. If you use either of these schedules, attach it to this plan and check the appropriate box(es)

- See my calendar attached
- See holiday schedule attached
- See proposed placement schedule attached

Answer: _____

9. **Why do you believe your proposed schedule is in the best interests of the children?**

Answer: _____

10. **Who will be responsible for transporting the child(ren) from one household to the other?**

Answer: _____

11. **How will your child(ren) keep in touch with the other parent when with you? How do you propose to have them do so?**

Answer: _____

If you **don't** propose to have the child(ren) contact the other parent when they are with you, please explain why.

Answer: _____

12. **How do you propose that your plan for education, day care and medical/dental care (insurance and expenses not covered by insurance) be financed? Specifically, how much do you expect these services to cost, and who will pay those costs? The purpose of asking this question is to determine whether your plan is financially realistic.**

Education:

Medical/Dental:

Child Care--Be sure to consider school year and vacation periods:

Extracurricular Activities--Be sure to consider school year and summer vacation periods:

13. **How much do you propose that you pay to the other parent or how much do you propose the other parent pay you to make the plan work? In addition to the above financial questions**

about medical care, daycare, and education, the law requires that you think about how your entire plan will work financially. Please give that thought now and state what payments will need to be made to finance this plan, that is, what child support, family support, maintenance or other income transfer there will be. The court expects you to be realistic about your own and the other parent's financial situation.

Answer: _____

In order to evaluate the plan you are proposing, the Court needs some practical information about you. You have already been required to provide financial information in a separate document (your Financial Disclosure Statement). Your answers to the following questions will fill out the picture.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The following questions require very specific information about your address and your workplace. If you believe that you have been the victim of interspousal battery by the other parent as described in section 940.19 or section 940.20(1m) of the statutes or that you have been the victim of domestic abuse or real threats of domestic abuse by the other parent as defined in section 813.12(1)(a), you may substitute a general description of your residence and your workplace for the specific address. If you are uncertain about whether your situation "fits" this exception, contact your local agency that deals with domestic abuse issues. If you already have a domestic violence injunction or if there is some criminal court proceeding involving you and the child(ren)'s other parent, it would be helpful if you would attach a copy of that paper to this parenting plan; but you do not have to have such a court order to give a general rather than a specific answer. You DO need to tell the court that you have a concern about possible violence if you do not wish to provide specific information here.

14. **Where do you live now?**

Answer: _____

15. **Where do you intend to live for the next two years?** If you are planning a move, please specify.

Answer: _____

16. **Where do you work and what are your days and hours of employment?** If you anticipate any changes in the near future (shift or hours or employer), please specify what changes you anticipate.

Answer: _____

17. If you have given general answers because you believe that you are the victim of domestic violence, or you know that you have a domestic violence order or criminal court order that limits your ability to contact or see the child(ren)'s other parent, please tell the court how you propose

that the child(ren) will be transferred between you and the other parent for any placement schedule the court orders. This includes telling the court how your plan would be financed.

Answer: _____

This completes the parenting plan initially required by the law under Wis. Stat. §§ 767.41(1m) or 767.451(6m). If the court has questions about this plan, I request the opportunity to answer those questions before the court makes a final determination regarding custody or placement.

I certify that I have sent a copy of this parenting plan to the other parent (and to (his) (her) attorney, _____) (and to the guardian ad litem, _____) on (date).

Signature of Parent

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

(Holidays take precedence over routine placement schedule)

Holiday	Even numbered years	Odd numbered years	Comments/Hours
New Year's Eve			
New Year's Day			
Easter			
Mother's Day			
Memorial Day	Mother all years		
Father's Day			
July 4th	Father all years		
Labor Day			
Halloween			
Thanksgiving			
Christmas Eve			
Christmas Day			
Child's Birthday			

Strike out any holidays when regular placement schedule will be followed. Use extra spaces to include additional holidays according to family's traditions.

PLACEMENT SCHEDULE DURING SCHOOL YEAR

- Primary placement to mother father
- Alternate placement to other parent on
 - Alternate weekends from (Friday) (Saturday) commencing at ____m. through (Sunday) (Monday) at ____m.
(drop off at school) (drop off at)
 - Weekdays--(Every) (Alternate) (day of week) from ____m. until ____m. when child to be (returned to _____) (dropped off at school)

Specify hours/days of placement, and if appropriate, where child(ren) to be picked up and returned

- Shared placement schedule (check or insert specific schedule)
 - Parents to alternate weeks with child(ren) transferred between them on (day of week) at ____m., when child(ren) to be dropped off at (specify time and place of transition) (e.g., on Sundays at 7:00 p.m., when child(ren) to be dropped off at other parent's residence)
 - Mother Father to have placement on all Mondays and Tuesdays
 - Mother Father to have placement on all Wednesdays and Thursdays
 - Parents to alternate weekend placement Friday through Sunday

PLACEMENT SCHEDULE DURING SUMMER SCHOOL VACATION PERIODS

- Follow same placement schedule as during school year except each parent to have right to have children for (one) (two) uninterrupted week(s) of vacation each summer (which (may) (may not) be consecutive). Such vacation week(s) shall be identified
 - On or before (date) of each year
 - At least (number of days) days in advance
 In the event of a conflict, (mother) (father) shall have first choice of vacation weeks in even-numbered calendar years and (mother) (father) shall have first choice in odd-numbered calendar years.
- Parents to alternate (one-week) (two-week) periods during the summer vacation period; such rotation to commence the first (day of week) at _ p.m., *(e.g., the first Sunday at 7:00 p.m.)* and end the last (day of week) before school resumes in the fall when the regular school year placement schedule shall resume.

SPRING/EASTER AND WINTER/CHRISTMAS SCHOOL VACATION PERIODS

- Regular school placement schedule to be followed
- Vacation periods shall be split equally between parents with parent who has placement on Easter/Christmas having first half of period and the other parent the second half
- Vacation periods to be alternated between parents. In the first year, (mother) (father) to have placement over the spring/Easter break and (mother) (father) to have placement over the winter/Christmas break
- Mother Father to have placement over all spring/Easter breaks
- Mother Father to have placement over all winter/Christmas breaks