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PARENTING PLAN TOPICS

The potential topics included within a Parenting Plan include (but are not limited to) the following:

Parental responsibility

Whether there is to be joint or sole decision-making in relation to all or specified major long-term issues affecting the children. These include (but are not limited to): health; education; religion; name; or changes to living arrangements that make it significantly more difficult for children to spend time with a parent.

Care arrangements

Arrangements for the care of children (such as living arrangements and time spent with caregivers such as parents and grandparents). This would also include change-over arrangements for when children move between households.

Sleeping arrangements

The sleeping arrangements for the children such as beds and bedrooms, and whether these are to be shared with other children.

Communication

The various ways in which communication is to occur. This includes between the caregivers themselves and between children and caregivers when they're not in the same household.

Special arrangements can be put in place for emergencies (such as phone calls), and at other times a combination of various communication methods can be used such as phone calls, video calls, Messenger services, text messages, and email.

Medical issues

What to do in the case of medical emergencies. This includes both when children are facing emergences and when caregivers are facing emergencies whilst being responsible for the day-to-day care of children. Whether caregivers are to be the first option to care for children if the other caregiver is unable to do so. The way medical issues will be addressed, including making appointments with GPs, specialists, and other allied health-care providers. Also, how prescription medications are to be obtained. Finally, establishing any food requirements for the children to adequately responding to any allergies or medical conditions.

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Safety concerns

Safety considerations such as using car seats or boosters for children during car travel.

Devices

The use of electronic devices by children such as screen time and bedroom use.

Schooling

The school attended by children and attending parent-teacher interviews.

Extra-curricular activities

The extra-curricular activities attended by children such as sports, music lessons, dance, and drama.

Holiday arrangements

Arrangements for school holidays, including long weekends and pupil-free days.

Special occasions

Arrangements for special occasions such as Easter, Christmas, New Years Eve, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, the children's birthdays, and the caregivers' birthdays.

Passports and overseas travel

Whether the children are to have passports, and where they are kept. Arrangements to determine how children are to travel overseas, including paid airfares, itineraries, security bonds, and contact details for the children.

Introduction of third parties

The way in which third partiers (such as caregivers' new partners) are to be introduced to the children. This can include timeframes around the length of dating beforehand and the manner of communicating this information to children.

Resolving disagreements

The method for resolving disagreements between caregivers regarding issues relating to parenting matters, including co-parenting counselling and mediation.