

Common Terms used by the Court:

- ***Time-sharing schedule***

A timetable that must be included in the Parenting Plan, specifying the time a child spends with each parent.

- ***Shared parental responsibility***

Both parents have full parental rights and responsibilities for the child, and both parents make joint major decisions affecting the welfare of the child.

- ***Sole Parental Responsibility***

One parent is given responsibility for the child, with or without rights of time-sharing to the other parent.

Terms no longer used by the Court:

- ***Custody/Visitation***

Please consult Florida Statutes, Chapter 61, for the specific language now used in Family Law cases such as divorce, paternity, child support, and domestic violence injunction cases. You may research the Florida Statutes at the Bay County Law Library in Panama City (850-747-5323) or you may access the Statutes on the internet at www.flsenate.gov/statutes/

Other Resources:

- www.flcourts.org
Self-help/Family Law Forms
- Bay County Law Library (a Parenting Plan CD is available for your review)
- **Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.**
(850) 769-3581 / Panama City/ Bay County
(850) 385-9007/ Tallahassee / Outer Counties
- **Florida Bar Lawyer Referral Service**
(800) 342-8011 / www.floridabar.org
- **Family Law Court Staff**
David L. Holland ,Family Court Manager
850-747-5497 / hollandd@jud14.flcourts.org
Trish Riemer, Case Manager (Bay)
850-747-5247 / riemert@jud14.flcourts.org
Jennifer D. Williams, Case Manager (Bay)
850-747-5623 / williamsj@jud14.flcourts.org
Cary Godwin, Case Manager (all except Bay)
850-718-0480 / godwinc@jud14.flcourts.org
- Private Attorney (consult the yellow pages of your telephone directory)

It is always best to be represented by a lawyer who can explain your legal rights and responsibilities.

YOUR PARENTING PLAN



**IF YOUR CASE INVOLVES
MINOR CHILDREN,
A PARENTING PLAN IS
REQUIRED BY FLORIDA
STATUTE**

When is a Parenting Plan required?

Pursuant to Chapter 61 of the Florida Statutes, a Parenting Plan is required in all cases involving time-sharing with minor children, **even when time-sharing is not in dispute.**

What issues are covered in the Parenting Plan?

The Parenting Plan shall contain a time-sharing schedule and should address the issues regarding the child's education, health care, and physical, social and emotional well-being.

What is a time-sharing schedule?

A timetable that must be included in the Parenting Plan that specifies the time, including overnights and holidays, that a minor child will spend with each parent. If developed and agreed to by the parties, it must be approved by the court. If the parents cannot agree, the schedule shall be established by the court.

Where can I find a Parenting Plan form?

- You may purchase a Parenting Plan form from the Clerk of Court; OR
- You may download the form at www.flcourts.org under self-help/forms (Form Number 12.995(a) or 12.995(b) (Supervised/Safety-Focused Parenting Plan)).

What if the other party will not cooperate in preparing a Parenting Plan?

- You may complete and submit a proposed Parenting Plan of your own even if the other party does not agree. The Court will review and consider your proposed Parenting Plan, as well as the other party's proposed Plan, if any, and make decisions with regard to the specific areas of conflict.

Do I have to complete the whole form?

At a minimum, the Parenting Plan must describe in adequate detail:

- How the parties will share and be responsible for the daily tasks associated with the upbringing of the children;
- The time-sharing schedule arrangements that specify the time that the minor children will spend with each parent;
- A designation of who will be responsible for any and all forms of health care, school-related matters, other activities; and
- The methods and technologies that the parents will use to communicate with the children.