

CAUSE NO. _____

IN THE INTEREST OF _____ § IN THE _____ JUDICIAL
§
§ DISTRICT COURT
§
CHILDREN § _____ COUNTY, TEXAS

ORDER APPOINTING CO-PARENTING CASE MANAGER

THIS CAUSE having come before this Court and this Court having reviewed the file and being otherwise fully advised in the premises this Court finds that this case is a high-conflict case and the appointment of a Co-parenting Case Manager is in the best interest of the minor children in this cause.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that a Co-parenting Case Manager be and is hereby appointed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Bradley S. Craig of Parenting Partnerships will be the Co-parenting Case Manager in this case. All parties are ordered to fax or e-mail a copy of this order along with all necessary intake information including payment, a complete intake form, contract for services, and data form to Parenting Partnerships, phone (972) 897-0440, fax (972) 704-2912, e-mail brad@parentingpartnerships.com within 3 business days of this order to schedule the first appointment with the Co-parenting Case Manager. The Co-parenting Case Manager shall select a date within 30 days of the date of this order and all parties shall appear as directed by the Co-parenting Case Manager.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the duration, frequency, location, and persons in attendance for each session with the Co-parenting Case Manager shall be left to the discretion of the Co-parenting Case Manager, who is specifically authorized to notify the Court if any party is failing to comply with the spirit or letter of this order or other orders of the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the fees shall be paid as follows: _____ . The fees shall be advanced to the Co-parenting Case Manager. The Co-parenting Case Manager may assess to each party a pro rata share for time expended for reviewing documentation, out-of-session time, and other individual services. The Court deems these payments be taxed as costs of suit.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Co-parenting Case Manager shall have the following responsibilities and the authority to make recommendations necessary to carry out such responsibilities. The Co-parenting Case Manager:

- shall assist the parties and the children to promote the children's rights of access to both parents and to protect the children's best interest in general;
- is entitled to communicate with parties, children, health care providers, mental health providers and any other third parties as deemed necessary by the Co-parenting Case Manager;
- shall work to educate parents to effectively
 1. Parent in a manner that minimizes conflicts;
 2. Communicate and negotiate;
 3. Develop and apply appropriate parenting skills;
 4. Meet the developmental needs of their children;
 5. Disengage from each other when engagement leads to conflicts and non-cooperation; and
 6. Allow the children to grow up free from the threat of being caught in the middle of their parents' disputes;
- shall assist the parties in minimizing child-related conflicts between the parents and resolving issues related to parenting or other family issues, including
 1. Identifying disputed issues;
 2. Reducing misunderstandings;
 3. Clarifying priorities;
 4. Exploring possibilities for problem solving;

5. Developing methods of collaboration in parenting;
 6. Developing, implementing, and refining a formal parenting plan;
 7. Monitoring that the court's orders regarding the children are complied with;
 8. Reporting to the court on the compliance and progress of the parties; and
 9. Making recommendations regarding unresolved co-parenting issues when the parents cannot reach agreement;
- shall, when necessary, recommend to the parents that one or both avail themselves of appropriate community resources, including, but not limited to, random drug screens, formal parenting classes, and individual psychotherapy or family counseling;
 - may, as a means of reducing conflicts and promoting best interests of the children, make temporary minor changes to the parenting plan or parenting time schedule when the parents cannot reach consensus or agreement;
 - may not maintain Ex Parte communication with either attorney;
 - may not rule on admissibility of evidence or create a formal record of evidence;
 - may not serve as a social study evaluator;
 - may not modify the primary residence of the children.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the parties

- shall follow the Case Managers recommendations;
- shall cooperate with the Co-parenting Case Manager and shall execute any necessary authorizations to enable the Co-parenting Case Manager to obtain information about the children or the parties or other caretakers;
- shall direct any disagreements regarding the children to the Co-parenting Case Manager before seeking court action, unless a child's safety is jeopardized. The Co-parenting Case Manager will work with both parents to resolve the conflict and, if necessary, will recommend resolution to the parties and their legal counsel;
- shall contact the Co-parenting Case Manager only during regular business hours or at other times scheduled by the Co-parenting Case Manager. The assistance

provided by the Co-parenting Case Manager is not intended to be a crisis intervention service;

- shall notify the Co-parenting Case Manager in writing within 24 hours of any changes in their contact information, legal representation, residency, or occupants of their home.

Specific Problem Areas Identified include:

This case is set for review regarding the status of Case Management services on _____.

Signed on this _____ day of _____, 200__.

JUDGE PRESIDING