

# Parenting Plan

A parenting plan can focus the mind on practical and legal issues.

An example is as follows.

‘(The father) would like to agree with (the mother) as follows

The father and mother believe in the importance that each of them has meaningful and on-going contact with the child(ren). The father and mother are jointly responsible for the upbringing and welfare of their child. The interests of the child here is paramount.

The plan can be adapted to the development of the child.

The father and mother will regularly consult each other (either directly or through counselling) about the welfare of the child(ren). They will do this in close consultation and in the interests of the child. These consultations will take place if a parent deems it necessary. Be it at pickup/delivery of the child or e-mail/telephone contact.

The child(ren) has not had any input to this agreement, as he/she was too young at the time this agreement was drawn up.

## **Authority**

The father and mother believe that it is in the best interest of the child that they both continue to exercise authority over their child. This implies that they will both continue to care and act in the child’s best interest and assume the legal responsibilities associated with this.

## **Legal documents**

The child(ren) will have his own passports to ensure he can fully benefit from his dual citizenship. These will remain in possession of the father and the mother respectively. Both parents agree that no travelling with will be done without explicit agreement in writing of both parents and/or court order.

**Shared care**

**The child(ren) will reside with both parents, based on an agreed access and care schedule or as ordered by the Court. This schedule will be revised on yearly basis from the time of agreement or Court orders.**

**Both parents agree (and are obligated) to inform the other parent in case of sickness, emergencies or any other action/situation/event that are not reasonably considered to be part of any other normal day.**

**Care and Access**

**Residence of Child(ren), with who and when**

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
12:00AM							
01:00AM							
02:00AM							
03:00AM							
04:00AM							
05:00AM							
06:00AM							
07:00AM							
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09:00PM							
10:00PM							
11:00PM							

By way of exception and in good mutual agreement changes to these schedules can be discussed. Re-occurring or lasting changes should be captured in writing (sms or email) to

avoid misunderstandings or confusion.

In case of (documented) illness of the child(ren) or either parent these schedules may be waived and alternative care arranged by mutual agreement of the parents.

If the child is with one parent the other parent is allowed to call (at least) once a day (phone or skype voice/video) if this is in the best interest of the child (i.e. to provide daily contact even if it is for a couple of minutes). The child himself may call the other parent at all times, given his age it is expected that the parents assist the child as currently is the case.

#### Car & transportation

The parent that has the child(ren) has the car and will drop the child(ren) and the car off to the other parent's place of residence. When the child has been dropped off to whoever the car will be dropped off at a mutually agreed location (Name of Location - a car park for example) for easy retrieval by the other parent when the child(ren) needs to be picked up from Whoever again. When the child(ren) is taken to anywhere by anyone transportation or by other means the car should be at a centrally agreed location.

#### Transfer

When transferring the child(ren) from one parent to the other it is important that the last custodial parent informs the other parent about the latest information/situation/updates about their son (for example, illness, sleep patterns, eating behaviour, overall impression, etc.).

The father and mother inform each other directly if there is any noteworthy change. Generally this will be done from one parent to the other by e-mail or phone to inform when it deems necessary.

During the transfer and in the presence of child, nothing but the latest important updates pertaining to the child will be exchanged.

#### Place and location of living

Both parents agreed that, in the best interest of their son, they will reside in Location until child(ren) reaches the age of 5 or unless otherwise specifically agreed in writing by both

parents or ordered by the Court.

### **Holidays and Vacations**

The holidays and public holidays will be distributed in consultation, so that both parents have the opportunity to spend holidays and go on vacation with their child.

Parents have a duty to inform each other where the child stays on vacation. Vacation or 'stays abroad' shall take place only with the consent of the other parent. All reasonable efforts should be made to enable contact between the 'stay at home' parent and the child.

### **Length and Location**

**At the age of two years:** a (long) weekend, midweek, week or two weeks (once per calendar year for a minimum of 10 days and a total maximum of no more than 14 days and nights) spent together (Child(ren) and one of the 2 parents in Location.

A maximum of four individual such 'events' per calendar year per parent.

**At the age of three years:** a (long) weekend, midweek, week or two weeks (once per calendar year for a minimum of 14 days and a total maximum of no more than 21 days and nights) spent together (Child(ren) and one of the 2 parents) in Location.

A maximum of four individual such 'events' per calendar year per parent.

**At the age of four years:** a (long) weekend, midweek, week, two weeks or three weeks (once per calendar year for a minimum of 14 days and a total maximum of no more than 21 days and nights) spent together ( and one of the 2 parents) in Location or anywhere else in the world.

A maximum of four individual such 'events' per calendar year per parent.

**Until the age of five years** the parents do not need to take into account any school holidays. From the age of five years onwards the parents have to take school holidays into consideration.

### **Special Days**

**Child(ren) birthday:** preferably celebrated with both parents in attendance. This will

always happen with consultation and mutual agreement.

**Parent’s birthdays:** the birthday of the Mother, the child will spend with the Mother, the birthday of the Father; the child will spend with the Father. This does not have to be the birth date itself, more so the date of the celebration. This will always happen with consultation and mutual agreement and planned at least one week in advance.

**Special family days:** Birthdays, weddings and ‘passing of’ direct family all in consultation.

Mother’s /Father’s day: the child is expected to spend Mothers’ Day with the Mother and Fathers’ day with the Father unless otherwise agreed.

The access and care arrangements for vacations, holidays and special days will be mutually planned and agreed in December for the following calendar year.

### **House Rules**

<b><u>Personal care:</u></b>			
<b>What</b>	<b>Whom</b>	<b>Consultation</b>	<b>When</b>
Hair cut	Both parents	Without consultation	As required
Nails	Both parents	Without consultation	As required
Bathing	Both parents	Without consultation	As required
Clothing purchase	Both parents	Without consultation	As required
<b><u>Medical Care:</u></b>			
Special and Important decisions	Both parents	With consultation	Before
Small Decisions (Dentist, GP, injections, cold, teething)	Both parents	With consultation	Preferably before, otherwise after
Purchase and administration of prescription drugs	Both parents	With consultation	Before
Any specialist appointments	Both parents	With consultation	Before
<b><u>Kohanga:</u></b>			
Change of Location	Both parents	With consultation	Before
Pick up/Drop Off	Both parents	With consultation	Before
<b><u>Leisure:</u></b>			

Various	Both parents	With consultation	Anytime
Choice of club activities	Both parents	With consultation	Before
Fees of club/activities	Organising parent	Without consultation	As required
Pick up/Drop Off of club/activities	Both Parents	Per schedule	As required
<b><u>Miscellaneous:</u></b>			
Insurance:			
Health	Father	Without consultation	Always
Liability	Mother	Without consultation	Always
Travel	Both parents	Without consultation	As required
Buying presents	Both parents	Anytime	Before

Both parents agree to use similar rules and arrangements pertaining to raising their child

<b><u>Bed Times</u></b>			
Wake up	Between 0700 and 0900 hrs	Without consultation	Always
Bed time	Between 1900 and 2100 hrs	Without consultation	Always

## **Finances**

### **Carer**

Both parents agree that all cost associated with Child Care will be split in half as long as both parents are full time employed. As soon as one of the parents is no longer able to pay, the other parent will endeavour to take over payment responsibilities of the defaulting parent to come up with an alternative within 4 weeks of their first non-payment. The fees will be paid to the Kohanga in question. All cost for schooling beyond the age of 5 will be mutually agreed a year before the child(ren) turns 5.

### **Groceries**

Both parents agree that cost for Groceries (i.e. Food, body care products, Nappies and Wipes, etc.) will be paid for by both parents as required based on the care schedule.

### **Clothing**

Both parents agree that clothing will be paid for by both parents as required based on the care schedule.

### **Insurances**

**Health Insurance** will be paid for by the Father. The child(ren) will be added to the policy of his father. The father will pay for any monthly fees associated with this policy.

**Travel Insurance** will be paid for by the travelling parent.

All other required insurances except for travel will be paid for by mutual agreement.

### **Healthcare**

Both parents proportional to their income will pay for any costs that are necessary for medical care, medicine, tools or support, due to illness of children, hospitalisation, treatment, physiotherapy, etc. but where these are not entirely covered by the insurance.

### **Miscellaneous**

The parents will make further arrangements, as required and as Tuwhakairiora gets older pertaining, but not limited to, the following:

Schooling, Determining and paying weekly allowance, Clothing allowance, TV/PC/Game time, Homework/lessons, Cell phone usage, internet usage, etc.

### **School/Education**

Both parents agree that any educational decision will be made together in close consultation.

The additional cost of training, tuition, book money, school trips etc. after Tuwhakairiora turns 5 years old will be paid by the Mother and Father in proportion to their income.

Official contacts with Child Care are run by the Mother. Either the Mother or the Child care contact person will keep the father up to date with regards to the child(ren) time at Child care.

Either one or both of the parents in agreement attend the parent evenings and/or Maori equivalent.

### **Respectful Parenting**

Both parties remain parents to their child. Terms like Father, Mother, Daddy, Mommy are reserved for the legal guardians and will not be used for anyone else unless explicitly otherwise agreed by both parents. Communications pertaining to change of family situation (other partners, new children, etc.) will be discussed between both parents before this is conveyed to

Both parties agree to treat each other with dignity and respect and ensure that any third party will not negatively interfere with discussion pertaining to parenthood in relation to the child(ren). Both parties further agree that they will support each other as much as possible in their parenting role in the face of potential situation and/or issues.

Every effort will be made by both parties to ensure that concerns/questions/comments raised through or by child(ren) about the other parent and or their living situation are taken out of the hands of child(ren) and dealt with by the parents to avoid unnecessary strain and stress on

the child(ren).

### **New Partners**

When either parent has a new partner these will only be introduced to the child(ren) after consultation with the other parent. Contact and interaction of the child(ren) with a new partner and any child(ren) of the new partner must be built up slowly. Parents should inform each other fairly and accurately about the interaction.

Parents immediately inform each other and will meet in case of problems in handling or contact with the new partner and/or child(ren). Parents will always act in the interests of the child in making arrangements for the handling of a new partner and any child(ren) of the new partner.

### **Surname**

Both parents agree that the child(ren) surname will stay the same as it is on his birth certificate.

### **Shocking events**

In the event of traumatic events, both parents will discuss directly together how to inform the child(ren) and how to deal with it going forward.

Contact information

Access to the parents in case of emergency:

Mother Phone Number, Named Person: Phone Number

Father Phone Number, Work Phone Number, Named Person: Phone Number

Backup contacts in case either parent can't be reached

Backup for Father is Named Person: Phone number

Backup for Mother is Named Person: Phone Number

**If you need help over children issues following a separation or divorce, consult the experts.**

**USUAL**