

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS –PARENTING PLANS

Q What is a parenting plan?

A A parenting plan is an agreement between parents with respect to how the children will be cared for, how decisions will be made and what time they will spend with each parent.

Q How do I make a parenting plan?

A A parenting plan can be created by the parties themselves or with the assistance of their lawyers and other professionals. In most cases, a parenting plan will be part of a separation agreement, but it can also be court ordered.

Q What should be included in a parenting plan?

A Although there is no comprehensive list of items that should be included in a parenting plan, there are some items that should almost always be addressed and include the following:

- How decisions will be made with respect to health care, education and religion for the children.
- Living arrangements for the children, including statutory, religious and summer holidays.
- How issues will be resolved that may arise in the future with respect to the children.
- What will be appropriate communication between the parties.

It is important to consider the preferences of your children when creating a parenting plan.

Q What are the benefits of having a parenting plan?

A Having a detailed parenting plan can help minimize future conflict and assist the parties in working more co-operatively.

Q Can a parenting plan be changed?

A Yes, a parenting plan can be changed and in most cases will need to be adjusted as your children's needs change. A well thought-out parenting plan will be mindful of these potential changes and will have procedures in place to help assist the parties implement these changes.