

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT – DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF	)	
	)	
PARTY 1,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
and	)	No.
	)	
	)	
PARTY 2,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**ORDER APPOINTING PARENTING COORDINATOR**

THIS CAUSE coming before this Court and the Court being fully advised in the premises; IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby appointed the Parenting Coordinator under \_\_\_\_\_ until resignation, written agreement of the parties, further Court Order, or \_\_\_\_\_ (optional ending date), whichever first occurs. This appointment is based upon the special expertise of the Parenting Coordinator.

2. Parenting Coordinator shall have authority set forth below to make decisions regarding the best interest of the child(ren), with the exception that the Parenting Coordinator shall not have authority to make any order which changes legal or physical custody.

3. The Parenting Coordinator shall assist the parties in promoting the minor child(ren), \_\_\_\_\_, best interests and needs. The goals of Parenting Coordinator shall include:

- a. Monitoring the Parenting Plan and mediate disputes;
- b. Teach parents communication skills related to child(ren)'s issues in divorce;

- c. Ensure that both parents maintain ongoing relationships with the child;
  - d. Minimize conflict, loyalty binds and unnecessary stress for the child;
  - e. Making orders more specific to clarify and avoid violation of the Court's orders; and
  - f. Act as temporary decision maker in the implementation of the Parenting Plan on any issue not specifically governed by the Court Order now which the parents reach an impasse, until further Court Order.
4. Specifically, the Parenting Coordinator shall make the following types of orders in accordance with the applicable constitutional and case law:
- a. Assist the parents in implementing the parenting plan or conditions (other than supervision);
  - b. Empower the parents to successfully resolve conflicts over their child(ren) on their own;
  - c. Making and changing orders regarding exchange and/or transportation of the child(ren), including specifying time and place exchange;
  - d. Making and changing orders regarding contact via telephone, text, email or social media;
  - e. Making and changing education, daycare, and/or extracurricular activities for the child(ren);
  - f. Making and changing times for religious observances and training for the children;

- g. Determining and ordering appropriate medical, dental and mental health treatment for the child(ren); the Parenting Coordinator shall designate whether any ordered treatment is or is not confidential;
- h. Making and changing orders regarding the alteration of the child(ren)'s appearance, such as haircuts, pierced ears, body piercings, tattoos;
- i. Making and changing orders regarding parenting time conditions; i.e. no smoking, no firearms, no consumption of alcohol, home facilities such as number of bedrooms or sleeping arrangements;
- j. Ordering psychological or neuropsychological testing for either or both parties or the child(ren);
- k. Ordering either or both parents to substance abuse testing and having access to any generated reports or results;
- l. Determining and ordering either or both parents to enter substance abuse treatment; the Parenting Coordinator will designate whether any ordered treatment is or is not confidential;
- m. Ordering either or both parents for a domestic violence evaluation and having access to any generated reports or results;
- n. Determining and ordering either or both parents to enter domestic violence counseling; the Parenting Coordinator will designate whether any ordered treatment is or is not confidential;
- o. The Parenting Coordinator may recommend a custody evaluation or assessment be conducted; and

p. Recommend modification of the Parenting Plan when agreement or consensus cannot be reached, as a means of reducing conflict and promoting the best interests of the child. Any recommended modification of a plan or schedule shall be in writing and submitted to the Guardian Ad Litem or Child's Representative, parents, and their attorneys.

5. The parties are specifically directed to send to the Parenting Coordinator by \_\_\_\_, copies of all relevant parenting pleadings and orders.

6. Each parent should direct any disagreements or concerns regarding the child to the Parenting Coordinator during the active phase of the process.

7. The Parenting Coordinator may recommend to the Court that a Guardian Ad Litem be appointed for the minor child(ren).

8. The Parenting Coordinator shall have the authority to contact and talk to the Guardian Ad Litem or Child's Representative at her discretion, and the Guardian Ad Litem or Child's Representative may initiate communication with the coordinator. Any written communication sent to the Parenting Coordinator by an attorney, Guardian Ad Litem or Child's Representative shall be copied to all parties.

9. The Parenting Coordinator may meet with the parties, significant others and/or child(ren) if so requested by the Parenting Coordinator, jointly or separately. The Parenting Coordinator shall determine if the appointments shall be joint or separate as well as whether or not to meet with significant others.

10. Both parents shall contact the Parenting Coordinator to schedule appointments. Appointments may also be scheduled when the Parenting Coordinator requests.

11. The Parenting Coordinator is not the ally of either parent, and the Parenting Coordinator is not a neutral mediator. The Parenting Coordinator's role is active and specifically focused on helping parents work together for the benefit of the child.

12. Father shall pay \_\_\_\_% and Mother shall pay \_\_\_\_% of the Parenting Coordinator's fees, including any retainer amount, for joint services. The Parenting Coordinator shall have the discretion to charge either party separately for individual contacts with the party or joint contacts made necessary by that party's behavior.

13. It is understood that despite the fact the Parenting Coordinator may make decisions or orders in favor of one party, both parties shall continue to be responsible for the payment of fees associated with such services at the allocated percentage designated below. It is further understood contact with either individual party remains subject to the payment of fees associated with such services at the allocated percentage designated below.

14. The Parenting Coordinator shall provide the parties with a written agreement for services containing her policies, including specifically the policy concerning confidentiality of information obtained by the Parenting Coordinator, and the procedures used by the Parenting Coordinator for dispute resolution.

15. The Parenting Coordinator is obligated to report incidents of child abuse or suspected child abuse that meet the mandatory reporting standards for mental health professionals.

16. Orders made by the Parenting Coordinator, if in writing shall be binding and effective when signed by the Parenting Coordinator. Orders need not be in writing and may be made orally, if circumstances involving severe time constraints and/or possible emergencies so warrant. Oral orders shall be binding and effective when made in a fashion communicated to

both parties, and such orders shall be further confirmed in writing to both parties as soon as practicable.

17. In the event a party objects to an order by the Parenting Coordinator, the parties and counsel shall meet and confer with the Parenting Coordinator to attempt to resolve the objections. If the parties and counsel cannot resolve the objections, the party may file a motion with the Court to change or modify the order. The order shall remain in effect until changed by the Court.

18. In the event a legal action becomes necessary to enforce any provision of this order, the non-prevailing party shall pay actual and reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred. The Parenting Coordinator may file a motion to the Court in the event her fees are not paid in a timely manner.

DATE:

ENTER: \_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE