

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
MORRIS/SUSSEX VICINAGE
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TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION WHEN DEVELOPING YOUR CO-PARENTING PLAN.

Co-Parenting Plans developed in Custody and Parenting Time Mediation can be as specific or as general as both parents desire. *The best Co-Parenting Plans include a strategy for both parents to effectively parent their child (ren) together.* Most Co-Parenting Plans include the topics listed below, but it is not limited to these topics alone. Co-parents can decide to develop the Parenting Plan with only the topics below or choose to add additional topics to the Parenting Plan. Prior to your mediation, consider the topics below and come prepared to discuss your Parenting Plan.

1. **LEGAL CUSTODY:** Who will make the significant decisions (i.e. health, education, medical, religion, general well-being) which will impact upon the future of the child (ren)? Will these decisions be made by both parents or by one parent only? Who will have access to the child (ren)'s medical and educational records?
2. **PHYSICAL /RESIDENTIAL CUSTODY:** With which co-parent will the child (ren) reside? Which co-parent's home will the child (ren) spend most of his/her/their time? What is/are the reason (s) for the type of custody arrangement you recommend?
3. **CO-PARENTING TIME:** How will co-parenting plan be arranged? When will the child (ren) spend time with the co-parent with whom he/she (they) do not reside or live most of the time? Will the co-parenting plan include weekdays, weekends and overnights? How will the child (ren) attend extracurricular or religious activities? How will transportation be arranged to accommodate the child (ren)? How will obligations of the child (ren) affect the co-parenting plan? Will the co-parenting plan for the school year be the same co-parenting plan for the summer? Will the child (ren) attend summer camp?
 - a. Which co-parent takes the children to appointments (doctor, dentist, school)?
 - b. Which co-parent provides care if the child (ren) are sick and cannot go to school? Which co-parent picks the child (ren) up from school if needed?
 - c. Which co-parent provides care for the child (ren) if there is a snow day?
 - d. What type of relationship will the child (ren) have with step-siblings?

How will the co-parenting plan change if the residence of a co-parent changes? How will the child (ren) be affected?

4. **HOLIDAYS:** How can the child (ren) enjoy holidays and special occasions (birthdays & family events) with each co-parent? How can the child (ren) enjoy school breaks with each co-parent? Will an even/odd year arrangement work? Will some events remain the same every year? Holidays commonly recognized by the Court: (The list may be adjusted to accommodate the traditions and needs of each co-parents)

MLK Day	Memorial Day	Veterans Day	Mothers/Father's Day
President's Day	July 4 th	Thanksgiving Day	Mother's/Father's Birthday
Passover	Labor Day	Hannukkah	Child (ren)'s Birthday
Good Friday	Rosh Hashanah	Christmas Eve/Day	New Year's Eve/Day
Easter	Yom Kippur	School Breaks (Winter, Mid-Winter, Spring)	

5. **VACATIONS:** How much vacation time will each co-parent enjoy with the child (ren)? Will vacation time be in the summer only or throughout the year? How much notice will each co-parent give the other about his/her intention of enjoying a vacation with the child (ren)? What information will be included in the notification?