

THE PROCESS OF CO-PARENTING COORDINATION

Co-Parenting Coordination is a type of Mediation, a process of problem solving and dispute settlement in which two third party co-facilitator neutrals, referred to herein as the “Co-Parenting Coordinators,” meet with the Parents of children, referred to herein as the “Parties,” together and/or separately, and thereby jointly attempt to facilitate a solution to parenting problems or a resolution of matters in dispute between the parents. The Co-parenting Coordinator(s) often uses communication and problem solving techniques to suggest possible mutually agreeable alternatives to the Parties, assisting them in moving towards a written Parenting Agreement.

A Co-Parenting Coordinator(s) is a third party neutral. This means that the Co-Parenting Coordinator, while striving to find solutions and resolutions in the best interests of the children, is impartial as to the Parties and the issues of the case and has no stake in the outcome. The Co-Parenting Coordinator(s) assists the parties in reaching an agreement or settlement of the issues that is acceptable to both sides.

Co-Parenting Coordination is an informal and loosely structured process with the flexibility to meet the particular needs of the Parties or conflict at hand. Co-Parenting Coordination is non-decisional in nature and creates no precedent as to future disputes. In other words, a resolution in Co-Parenting Coordination involves the Parties reaching mutual agreement; the Co-Parenting Coordinator(s) may make suggestions, and may pose alternatives, ask questions, provide information and feedback, or otherwise try to facilitate a mutually agreed upon resolution by the Parties, but will ordinarily refrain from making and imposing the decision as to how the case should end. The negotiated and mediated resolution to a particular case is not applicable to any other case. As a dispute settlement alternative, Co-Parenting Coordination also allows both the Co-Parenting Coordinator(s) and the Parties to retain and share control of the process.

As a process, Co-Parenting Coordination has the ability to deal with unanticipated issues, and tailor an agreement to an individual dispute. Preparing for Co-Parenting Coordination is less time consuming than preparing for litigation, and typically is less expensive, as well. Finally, Co-Parenting Coordination promotes the establishment of a cooperative relationship whereby the Parties reach a result incorporated into a written Parenting Agreement acceptable to each. Together the Parties solve the problems at hand and settle the dispute, generally thereby becoming more invested in the success of the Parenting Agreement. The process of Co-Parenting Coordination is meant to be a “win-win” situation for both Parties.