

Parenting Plan Instructions

Each parent must fill out a proposed parenting plan. Your proposed plan should allow your child(ren) to spend as much time with each parent as possible, but should not be difficult for your child(ren).

Parenting Plan Sections

The parenting plan has four sections for stating the following:

1. The values and goals you will use to raise your child(ren).
2. How each parent will spend time with your child(ren).
3. How you will handle any parenting disagreements with the other parent.
4. Steps you may wish to take to protect yourself and/or your child(ren).

Instructions

Read these instructions and the safety planning on the next page before completing your parenting plan.

1. If you are the **parent who is filing** for the dissolution of your marriage, the 17th Circuit Court is requesting that you complete the parenting plan, provide a copy to the other parent's attorney (or other parent), provide a copy to the Friend of the Court, and file it with the Court at the same time as you file a request to dissolve your marriage.
2. If you are the **parent who was served** with a request to dissolve your marriage, the 17th Circuit Court is requesting that you complete the parenting-time plan, provide a copy to the other parent's attorney (or other parent), provide a copy to the Friend of the Court, and file it with the court at the same time as you file your response to the request to dissolve your marriage.
3. If you agree with the other parent's proposed parenting plan, you should file a written statement with the court indicating that you agree with the other parent's proposed plan. Attach a copy of that plan to your statement. Provide a copy of your statement and the proposed plan to the Friend of the Court and the other parent's attorney (or other parent).
4. If after discussing the proposed plans with one another or with your attorneys, you cannot agree to a single parenting plan, you and your attorneys should discuss the options available to you to help you reach an agreement. The Legal Assistance Center can assist persons without attorneys to select a process for reaching agreement.
5. If you do not file a parenting plan with the court and provide copies as requested, the court may approve the other parent's proposed plan, even if you disagree with it.
6. The court may order you and the other parent to participate in an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process if you request a change in your parenting plan before participating in an ADR process.

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Safety Planning

If you have concerns regarding your safety and/or the safety of your child(ren), consider the following questions.

Has the other parent:

- Acted as though violent behavior toward you or your child(ren) is OK in some situations?
- Damaged or destroyed property or pets during an argument?
- Threatened to commit suicide?
- Pushed, slapped, kicked, punched, or otherwise physically hurt you or your child(ren)?
- Had problems with alcohol or other drugs?
- Needed medication to be safe around others?
- Threatened to keep your children or kept them from you?
- Used weapons to threaten or hurt people?
- Threatened to kill you, your child(ren), or anyone else?
- Sexually abused anyone by force, threat of force, or intimidation?
- Been served with a protection order or no contact order?
- Been arrested for harming or threatening to harm you or anyone else?

If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions, the court encourages you to inform your attorney, the Legal Assistance Center (if you are using the LAC), the Friend of the Court, the Judge, and/or any mediator for your case. Additionally, please complete Sections 2, 3, and 4 of your parenting plan, but not Section 1.

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