

PARENTING TIME PLANS AS A MEANS TO RESOLVE CUSTODY CONFLICTS

Joint Custody With A Jerk - This is a title of a popular self help book written by Dr. Julie A. Ross. The title itself can sum up what you may be feeling in coping with your former spouse. The book offers some tips to deal with communication. It is not easy. While you may see the reasonableness of your position you are often faced with the person who will say the exact opposite. The ability to transform the communication so that you are not the victim or manipulated by the situation goes a long way. People will continue to “push buttons” and for you to expect your spouse will change overnight is not realistic. You do not have to rely on a vague set of guidelines to address the issues. A “Parenting/Visitation Plan” is a great start to controlling the situation. It provides definition for the parenting time that can be as structured as it is needed to be. Parenting Plans are great when conflict arises and each party has their time specified and identified. What do you mean when you say a parent has “Holiday” parenting, not only identifying the holidays but the pick up and drop off time, what happens when the holiday is adjacent to a parent’s weekend. If you have the children for the weekend and you have time scheduled for a Monday holiday, can you expect that you will be able to keep the children overnight on Sunday evening. If this is not specified, then it would prevent you from having the ability to enjoy a long weekend to comply with the Sunday evening return time. When people can’t resolve these issues, then the Parenting Plan can help them and define their entitlement to time with the children. You can use the legal process to be proactive and not reacting to when you are faced with problems.