

Parenting Coordination FAQ's

Q: What is parenting coordination (PC)?

A: Parenting Coordination is a child-focused dispute resolution process in which a properly qualified impartial Parent Coordinator works with a child's parents or legal guardians to reduce conflict, create and or implement their parenting Plan, and protect healthy and meaningful parent-child relationships by educating parents, managing conflict, facilitating resolution of disputes in a timely manner, and sometimes making decision when parents are unable to reach consensus.

Q: When is parenting coordination recommended?

A: Post-dissolution; Pre-dissolution; when parents ask for it: agree to decision making outside of the Court to reduce cost and burden of continued litigation; ongoing disagreements between parents about implementing the Parenting Plan; Parent unable to communicate with each other; parents unable to reduce child-related conflict; parents unable to develop co-parenting relationship; parents unable to comply with orders and agreements; and when children are suffering as a result of parental conflict

Q: What issues are addressed?

A: Depends on court order: create a parenting plan; change a parenting plan; help parents create or change a Parenting Plan; decide financial issues; decide public versus private school. Steps can be detail and line by line instructions for carrying out specific parenting details (i.e. time/access schedules or conditions including vacation, holidays, and temporary variation from existing parenting plan; child-rearing issues; communication between parents, etc.)

Q: What is the Role of the Parent Coordinator?

A: Assess family dynamics, individual strengths and weaknesses in communicating, parenting problems, problem solving, co-parenting; divorce impasses, impediments to co-parenting, sources of conflict; child's functioning; Educate on above issues; Intervene by problem solving and conceptualizing a new family structure; Facilitate communication with others to build family cohesion, communication between parties, negotiation and agreement between parties, joint parenting decisions, support each parent by the other parent; future rather than past focused; and Case Manage, providing referrals for service, manage conflict, monitoring compliance with court orders, interpreting and implementing existing Parenting Plan, Neutral decision maker when consensus cannot be reached by the parents, and Addresses problems quickly. If the parties are unable to come to an agreement on issues, the parenting coordinator can act as an arbitrator to try new methods to improve their co-parenting skills.

Q: What are the goals of Parenting Coordination?

A: It is the program's goal to help parents adapt to the difficulties of co-parenting children when the family no longer lives together. The program is designed to promote cooperative decision making between both parents

and to eventually establish an environment where parents can resolve problems without the assistance of a parenting coordinator.

Q: How is Scheduling Determined?

A: The parenting coordinator will schedule an initial meeting with the parents. The “intake” session is often conducted individually and at different times. The frequency and times of subsequent meetings will be determined by the parenting coordinator and the parties. Sessions are usually scheduled one to two hours in length

Q: Who is Involved?

A: The parents are the principal parties involved. The parenting coordinator may, however, request meetings with therapists, attorneys, counselors, teachers, step-parents and other professionals who have contact with the children if the parenting coordinator feels they may aid in the process.

Q: What happens in a Session?

A: Most sessions are held with both parents in attendance. The parents, with the assistance of the parenting coordinator, will discuss the issues concerning the children. At times the parenting coordinator may do educational exercises designed to help parents work more cooperatively with each other. The aim of each meeting is to educate the parents, resolve issues and avoid trials and hearings.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: Private Providers-FCR 46(4)(2008) is up to \$300 per hour, retainers of 20 hours typical, and 50/50 split of fees; Orange County Reduce Fee Program at rate of \$80 per hour, usually 50/50 split between parties, and is appointed by Court Order.

Linda Hart Streeter, MFA

*Registered Marriage & Family Therapist Intern
Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator
Certified Parenting Coordinator*

File Reference #: _____

Case #: _____

Judge: _____

Date: _____ **Time:** _____ **Referred By:** _____

Petitioner: _____

COUNSEL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ **FAX #:** _____

PHONE 2#: _____ **Email:** _____

Respondent: _____

COUNSEL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ **FAX #:** _____

PHONE 2#: _____ **Email:** _____

Primary Parental Disputes/Issues: _____

Is Parenting Coordination Court Ordered: Yes No **If yes, Date of Order:** ___/___/___

Is Order Pre-Divorce Post Divorce

List several dates you're available for first PC Session: _____

Misc. Information:

