

PARENTING COORDINATION

Definition and Description

What is parenting coordination?

Parenting coordination is a child-centred, hybrid dispute resolution process for families, where a qualified professional facilitates the timely and effective resolution of disputes related to the children and their care. During major transitions such as the restructuring associated with separation and divorce, parenting coordination can dramatically reduce the amount of tension and conflict that a family experiences. If the conflict is already quite high, parenting coordination can manage the conflict and help families progress more quickly to a point where they can function on their own.

What do parenting coordinator's do?

The parenting coordination process can be divided into two general dimensions. In one dimension, the parenting coordinator functions as a facilitator, mediator, coach, and educator. In this capacity, the parenting coordinator helps everyone learn how to disengage from the conflict, identify and focus on what's best for the child(ren), regulate their own behaviours, communicate effectively, negotiate with an interest based/collaborative approach, develop problem solving skills, etc.

In the other dimension, the parenting coordinator functions as a case manager, arbitrator, and referee, as required. As a case manager, the parenting coordinator may interact with a variety of people including lawyers, judges, police, therapists, education professionals, medical professionals, coaches, extended family, etc to ensure that the efforts of everyone involved with the family are effective and consistent with the overall objective. In a multifaceted way, the parenting coordinator helps people implement their current parenting Order, agreement, or arrangement. If necessary, the parenting coordinator helps parents/caregivers clarify the existing Order/agreement/arrangement, add additional detail to these, and alter them slightly when circumstances dictate. Initially, a process of mediation and consultation is used to address all issues. If an agreement is not reached, and a timely decision is required, the parenting coordinator makes a determination that is in the best interests of the child(ren).

The parenting coordinator DOES NOT make a determination on major issues such as major changes to the parenting schedule and changes of residency. Impasses on such major issues would typically involve a bi-lateral assessment and a binding judicial process. It's important to note that it is often the day to day issues such as exchange times and locations, extra curricular activities, vacation schedules, homework, different parenting styles, etc, that provide fuel for the bulk of the conflict.

As a referee, the parenting coordinator may simply monitor, assess, and periodically intervene to maintain functional family dynamics. If necessary, the parenting coordinator will intervene more decisively to ensure that people adhere to Orders, agreements, and general expectations. A variety of strategies are employed to ensure that people conduct themselves appropriately within their role in the family.

Monitoring and assessing the development of a person's parenting/caregiving capacity, a person's progression through addictions treatment, psychological treatment, etc is also a part of the parenting coordinator's function.



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Statement of Intention

Based on the information provided by _____ the representative for the CALGARY CO-PARENTING CENTRE, _____ and _____ agree that parenting coordination appears to be a useful process to put in place for themselves and their children.

A detailed Parenting Coordination Agreement will be provided to them to review and sign. The agreement will include a description of the parenting coordinator's role relative to their circumstances, and the agreement will outline the scope of the parenting coordinator's decision-making role.

Executed on the ____ day of _____, 20____, in _____.

Executed on the ____ day of _____, 20____, in _____.

Executed on the ____ day of _____, 20____, in _____.

Print Name

Print Name

CCPC's Representative

Signature

Signature

Signature

