

## RULES FOR CO-PARENTING

1. Do not talk negatively about the other parent, their family and friends, or their home in hearing range of the child. This would include belittling remarks, ridicules, or bringing up allegations that are valid or invalid about adult issues.
2. Do not question the child about the other parent or the activities of the other parent regarding their personal lives. In specific terms, do not use the child to spy on the other parent.
3. Do not argue or have heated conversations between the parents when the child is present or during exchanges.
4. Do not make promises to the child to try and win them over at the expense of the other parent.
5. Do communicate with the other parent and make similar rules in reference to discipline, bedtime, routines, sleeping arrangements, and schedules. Appropriate discipline should be exercised by mutually agreed upon adults.
6. At all times, the decisions made by the parents will be for the child's psychological, spiritual, and physical well-being, and safety.
7. Parenting time arrangements will be made and confirmed beforehand between the parents without involving the child, in order to avoid any false hopes and cause any disappointments or resentments toward the other parent.
8. Do notify each other in a timely manner of the need to deviate from the order including cancelling visits, rescheduling, and promptness.
9. Do not schedule activities for the child during the other parent's period of care without the other parent's consent. However, both parents will work together to allow the child to be involved in extracurricular activities.
10. Do keep the other parent informed of any academic, medical, psychiatric, or extracurricular activities, or appointments of the child.
11. Do keep the other parent informed at all times of your address and telephone number. If you are out of town with the child, do provide the other parent the address and telephone number where the child may be reached in case of emergency.
12. Do refer to the other parent as the child's Mother or Father in conversation, rather than using the parent's first or last name.
13. Do not bring the child into adult issues and adult conversations about custody, the court, or about the other party.
14. Do not ask the child where he or she wants to live.
15. Do not attempt to alienate the other parent from the child's life.
16. Do not allow step-parents or others to negatively alter or modify your relationship with the other parent.
17. Do not use phrases that draw the child into your issues or make the child feel guilty about the time spent with the other parent. For example, rather than saying, "I miss you!" do say, "I love you!"