

## SHARED PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. Each parent has been given shared parental responsibility. This means:
  - A. Both parents shall confer so that major decisions affecting the welfare of the child shall be determined jointly. Said decisions include, but are not limited to, education, discipline, religion, medical, and the general upbringing of the child.
  - B. Each parent shall exercise, in the utmost of good faith, his and her best efforts at all times to encourage and foster the maximum relations, love and affection between the minor child of the parties and the other parent. Neither parent shall impede, obstruct, or interfere with the exercise by the other parent of his or her right to companionship with the minor child.
  - C. Each parent shall have access to records and information pertaining to the minor child including, but not limited to, medical, dental and school records. Each parent is encouraged to share this information when it is not readily available to other parent.
  - D. Neither parent shall make any disparaging remarks about the other parent or quiz the child as to the other parent's private life. It is the child's right to be spared from experiencing and witnessing any animosity or ill-feeling, if any should occur, between the parents and that the minor child should be encouraged to maintain love, respect, and affection for both parents.
  - E. That the relationship between the parents shall be as businesslike as possible: courteous, relatively formal, low-key, and public. Each parent shall be courteous and respectful to the other parent even though, at times, each parent may not feel that the other parent deserves it.
  - F. The non-custodial parent has a duty to communicate directly with the children concerning his/her relationship with them to the extent warranted by their age and maturity. The non-custodial parent cannot expect the primary residential parent to continually act as a "buffer" or "go between". For example should the non-custodial parent be unable to exercise visitation, the non-custodial parent should explain this directly to the child.
  - G. Both parents shall be entitled to participate in and attend special activities in which the minor child is engaged, such as religious activities, school programs, sports events, and other extracurricular activities, and important social events in which the child participates. Each parent should keep the other notified of these events
  - H. The child shall not be referred to by any other last name than the one listed on their birth certificate. Step-parents shall not be called "Mother" or "Father".
  - I. The primary residential parent has a duty to discuss with the non-custodial parent the advantages and disadvantages of all major decisions regarding the children and to work together in an effort to reach a joint decision. For example, this duty would include an obligation to discuss a decision to remove a child from public school in order to enroll the child in private school. It would not include a decision to have a child's bangs trimmed.
  - J. The primary residential parent has the responsibility to offer to the non-custodial parent the opportunity to care for the children, whenever reasonably possible, on those occasions when the primary residential parent is away due to work or social obligations. That is, the non-custodial parent shall have a right, superior to that of all third parties, to care for the children in the primary residential parent's absence.