Parenting Plan Checklist

Everyone, especially children, needs to know what the new parenting arrangement will be and how it will work. The parenting plan is your opportunity to structure a schedule that defines your parenting roles and gives each parent a mix of childcare duties and fun time.   Clarifying the details of the new arrangement minimizes the opportunity for conflicts caused by last minutes decisions. The parenting plan also lets the children know what to expect and reassures them that both parents will continue to be part of their lives.

It is estimated that parents must make over 200 distinct decisions to craft a comprehensive parenting plan for their children after separation of the family. Basic categories of decisions are addressed in the Missouri statutes for court ordered parenting plans. Parents wanting to flesh out their plan may wish to address the following matters.

(For the official Supreme Court Parenting Plan guidelines, click here)

Primary residence of child	
Allocation of medical care decisions	
Allocation of educational decisions	
Provisions for higher education	
Allocation of decisions about extracurricular activities	
Arrangements for extracurricular activities	
Arrangements for clothing purchases	
Arrangements for school supply purchases	
Arrangements for school fees	
Items to be shared	
Items to be duplicated	

Daycare arrangements	
Child care outside work hours	
Contact time with parent 1	
Contact time with parent 2	
Birthday celebrations	
Major Holidays	
Summer Vacation	
Other families traditions/events	
Scheduled time with extended family	
Telephone contact arrangements	
Exchange procedures	
Transportation arrangements	
Procedure for rearranging parenting time	
How changes in parenting time will be re-allocated	
Contributions for financial support of child	
Arrangements for healthcare insurance	
Arrangements for healthcare costs not covered by insurance	
Communication goals between parents	
Procedures for managing conflicts	
Provisions for conflict resolution (mediation or other means)	