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PARENTING PLAN TOPICS (page 1 of 2)

The potential topics included within a Parenting Plan include (but are not limited to) the following:

Care arrangements

Arrangements for the care of children (such as living arrangements and time spent with caregivers such as parents and grandparents). This would also include change-over arrangements for when children move between households.

Communication

The various ways in which communication is to occur. This includes between the caregivers themselves and between children and caregivers when they're not in the same household.

Special arrangements can be put in place for emergencies (such as direct phone calls), and at other times a combination of various communication modalities can be used such as phone calls, video calls, Messenger services, text messages, and email.

Medical emergencies

What to do in the case of medical emergencies. This includes both when children are facing emergencies and when caregivers are facing emergencies whilst being responsible for the day-to-day care of children. Whether caregivers are to be the first option to care for children if the other caregiver is unable to do so.

The way medical issues will be addressed, including making appointments with GPs, specialists, and other allied health-care providers. Also, who is to attend appointments, the manner of diagnosis of medical conditions of the children, and the prescription of medication for the children. Finally, food requirements for the children to adequately responding to any allergies or medical conditions.

Safety concerns

Safety considerations such as using car seats or boosters for children whilst travelling in a car.

Sleeping arrangements

The sleeping arrangements for the children such as use of beds (and whether these are to be shared with other children or caregivers) and bedrooms for the children.

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Devices

The use of electronic devices by children, including screen time, and use in bedrooms.

Schooling

The school attended by children and attending parent-teacher interviews.

Extra-curricular activities

The extra-curricular activities attended by children such as sports, music lessons, dance, and drama.

Holiday arrangements

Arrangements for school holidays, including how to deal with long weekends and pupil-free days.

Special occasions

Arrangements for special occasions such as Easter, Christmas, New Years Eve, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, the children's birthdays, and the caregivers' birthdays.

Passports and overseas travel

Whether the children are to have passports, and where they are kept.

Arrangements to determine how children are to travel overseas, including paid airfares, itineraries, security bonds, and contact details for the children.

Introduction of third parties

The way in which third parties (such as caregivers' new partners) are to be introduced to the children. This can include timeframes around the length of dating beforehand and the manner of communicating this information to children.

Resolving disagreements

The method and timeframe for resolving disagreements between caregivers regarding issues relating to the care of the children, including direct communication, co-parenting counselling, and the use of mediation services.