

## PARENTING CONFERENCE GUIDELINES

The Parenting Conference is a non-confidential process in which an impartial conciliator conducts interviews to assess and resolve the issues in dispute. In the event that the dispute cannot be resolved, the conciliator will provide the court with a written report which will allow the Judge to make informed decisions.

Conciliation Services conducts the Parenting Conference according to the following rules:

1. **Non-Confidential**

Communications and information obtained during the Parenting Conference may be reported to the Court.

2. **Participation and Disclosure**

Parents are expected to negotiate in good faith, communicate openly and to provide any information pertinent to the issues as requested by the conciliator.

3. **Participation of Other Parties**

The conciliator may interview children or other significant persons during the Parenting Conference process. Additional appointments may be set if deemed necessary by the conciliator.

4. **Joint and/or Individual Interviews**

Generally, the conciliator will meet jointly with the parents, however individual interviews may occur at the discretion of the conciliator. Any information given to the Court Conciliator by a party must be copied and given to the other party.

5. **Collateral Information**

During the course of completing the Parenting Conference process, information from additional sources may be collected when deemed necessary. Examples of additional collateral information would be Child Protective Services reports and law enforcement records.

6. **Legal Advice**

The conciliator cannot provide legal advice to either party. If the need for legal advice arises during the Parenting Conference, the parties will be encouraged to discuss those issues with an attorney.

7. **Best Interest of the Child(ren)**

The conciliator will be focused on the best interest of the child(ren) rather than on the positions of the parents.

8. **Notification of Settlement**

In the event of a settlement outside of Conciliation Services, the parents or the attorneys should immediately notify this office.

9. **Reporting Outcome of the Parenting Conference**

The outcome can be an agreement with a parenting plan, a partial agreement with recommendations, a brief report with information and recommendations or a complete assessment or evaluation.

I agree to use my best efforts to participate fully in the Parenting Conference in accordance with these guidelines.

I acknowledge that I have read and that I understand the Parenting Conference Guidelines.

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(Print Name)

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(Sign Name)

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(Date)