

# Top 10 Things Parents Should Consider When Dealing with a Parenting Order

A practical checklist to help parents think through parenting time, decision-making responsibilities, communication, stability, and legal guidance before agreeing to or responding to a parenting order.

1	<b>What arrangement is in your child's best interests?</b> Courts generally focus on the child's well-being, safety, and development.
2	<b>Can the proposed parenting schedule realistically work?</b> Consider school schedules, extracurricular activities, and transportation.
3	<b>How will major decisions be made?</b> Education, healthcare, religion, and other significant matters may require ongoing parental cooperation.
4	<b>How will communication between parents occur?</b> Clear communication can help reduce misunderstandings and future conflict.
5	<b>Does the arrangement provide stability for the child?</b> Consistency in routines, schooling, and living arrangements is often important.
6	<b>How will holidays, birthdays, and special occasions be handled?</b> Addressing these issues early can help avoid future disputes.
7	<b>What happens if circumstances change?</b> Work schedules, relocations, or changes in a child's needs may require adjustments.
8	<b>Have the child's needs and preferences been considered?</b> Depending on the child's age and maturity, their views may be relevant.
9	<b>Are both parents able to support the child's relationship with the other parent?</b> Encouraging healthy parent-child relationships is often an important consideration.
10	<b>Have you obtained legal advice before agreeing to anything?</b> Understanding your rights and obligations can help you make informed decisions.

Parenting orders are intended to support the best interests of the child, not determine a winner between parents.

*This content is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.*

