



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF TULSA COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of:

██████████

Petitioner,

v.

██████████

Respondent.

)
DISTRICT COURT
FILED

)
NOV 22 2016 No. ██████████

)
SALLY HOWE SMITH, COURT CLERK
STATE OF OKLA. TULSA COUNTY
)

JOINT CUSTODY PLAN

COME NOW Petitioner, ██████████, and Respondent, ██████████, jointly, and respectfully submit this *Joint Custody Plan* (this "*Plan*") agreed upon by and between Mother and Father hereto, with supporting Affidavits, for this Court's consideration. Mother and Father allege and state that the terms and provisions of this *Plan* are in the best interest of the minor child of Mother and Father hereto, to-wit: ██████████, born July 16, 2015. Therefore, Mother and Father respectfully pray this Court to approve and adopt this *Plan* as this Court's Order for the exercise of joint child care, custody, control and guardianship of the minor child of Mother and Father hereto, all pursuant to 43 O.S. §109, and further allege and state as follows:

1. Mother and Father should and shall have equal rights and responsibilities to the minor child, and neither party's rights should or shall be superior to the other, except as herein provided.
2. Mother and Father should and shall reasonably confer directly with one another, and not by or through the child or other third person(s), by the most reasonable and appropriate method, and should and shall share decision-making authority as to decisions affecting the physical, mental and moral welfare, and upbringing of the minor child to arrive at decisions promoting the minor child's best interests.

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3. During the period each of Mother and Father has physical custody of the child, that parent shall decide all normal, regular and routine matters concerning the child's welfare, and that each party-parent shall cooperate with one another in maintaining a mutual supportive arrangement regarding such normal, regular and routine matters.

4. Mother and Father shall each have the sole decision making authority regarding routine, non-emergency, medical, dental, and health care of the child needed during the period of time the child are in the physical custody of that particular party-parent, provided, however, that prior notification to the other party-parent of such routine medical, dental, and health care is given.

5. Mother and Father should and shall consult with each other and decide jointly the following matters, to-wit:

- A. Who the child's doctors, dentists, etc., should be with respect to routine medical, dental and health care the minor child should and shall receive; it being the intent hereof that Mother and Father should and shall jointly decide such things as who the child's doctors, dentists, etc., should be so that thereafter each party is free to take the child to said health care providers for such routine matters as shots, filling of cavities, eye examinations, etc., with only prior notification to the other, and it further being the intent hereof that, in cases of emergency, the party-parent with then physical custody of the child is authorized to get health care without prior consultation with the other party-parent, provided, however, that the other party-parent is informed and notified of said emergency as soon as practicable under the circumstances.
- B. Medical, dental and health care of the minor child should and shall receive; it being the intent hereof that Mother and Father should and shall jointly decide elective surgery for the child;
- C. Schools and day care centers which the minor child should or shall attend;
- D. Third-party care givers;
- E. The participation and withdrawal from participation in a particular religious instruction including enrollment in religious training programs;
- F. The extent of travel of the minor child away from home, including, but not limited to, purpose, duration, mode of travel, chapcrn(s), accommodations, etc.;

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- G. Enrollment in, and change of, schools;
- H. Participation in driver's education classes and obtaining a driver's license;
- I. Beginning or ending extra-curriculum activities, including, but not limited to, contact sports and music lessons;
- J. Provisions of sex education and/or contraception;
- K. Part-time or weekend employment by the child;
- L. Standards and rules for dating;
- M. Discipline and punishment;
- N. The child's procurement of any form of body modification, including, but not limited to, tattoos, piercings, plastic surgery, microdermal implants, and branding;
- O. Mother and Father agree to consult with each other before either states to the child that a decision with respect to a significant matter affecting the child's welfare has been made. All such decisions shall be presented to the child as joint decisions; and
- P. Such other areas requiring decisions affecting the physical, temporal, moral and spiritual growth and development of the minor child. Mother and Father agree that the foregoing list is not exhaustive, but they intend to jointly make decisions that significantly affect the upbringing and general welfare of their child.

6. In order to ensure the continuing association between the minor child and her parents and to best promote and foster continued parent-child companionship, the physical custody of the child shall be shared as follows:

Primary Custody: Mother shall maintain the primary custody of the child subject to Father's right to visitation as set forth in the Agreed Order of Paternity.

Holiday Visitation: Mother and Father shall share special occasion/holidays with the child as follows, to-wit:

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Even Years</u>	<u>Odd Years</u>
Fathers Day: Father shall be entitled to custody of the child on Father's Day	Father	Father

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<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Even Years</u>	<u>Odd Years</u>
weekend of each year from the time school recesses on Friday, preceding Father's Day, until 9:00 o'clock a.m. on Monday, following Father's Day.		
<u>Mother's Day:</u> Mother shall be entitled to custody of the child on Mother's Day weekend of each year from the time school recesses on Friday, preceding Mother's Day, until the time school resumes on Monday, following Mother's Day.	Mother	Mother
<u>Easter:</u> From the time school recesses on Friday, preceding Easter, until the time school resumes on Monday, following Easter.	Father	Mother
<u>Memorial Day:</u> From the time school recesses on Friday, preceding Memorial Day, until the time school resumes on Tuesday, following Memorial Day, if school is in session, or 9:00 o'clock a.m., if school is not in session.	Mother	Father
<u>Fourth of July:</u> From 6:00 o'clock p.m. on July 3 rd , until 6:00 o'clock p.m. on July 5 th , unless July 4 th is on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, in which case the holiday shall end at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on Monday, following July 4 th .	Father	Mother
<u>Labor Day:</u> From the time school recesses on Friday, preceding Labor Day, until the time school resumes from Labor Day, if school is in session, or 9:00 o'clock a.m., if school is not in session.	Mother	Father
<u>Thanksgiving:</u> From the time school recesses for Thanksgiving, until the time school resumes from Thanksgiving.	Father	Mother
<u>Christmas:</u> From the time the child's school recesses for Christmas, until 9:00 o'clock p.m. on December 24 th .	Mother	Father

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<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Even Years</u>	<u>Odd Years</u>
From 9:00 o'clock p.m. on December 24 th until the time school resumes following Christmas.	Father	Mother
Spring Break: From the time school recesses for Spring Break, until the time school resumes from Spring Break.	Father	Mother
Fall Break: From the time school recesses for fall break, until the time school resumes from fall break.	Mother	Father
Martin Luther King Day: From the time school recesses on Friday, preceding Martin Luther King Day, until the time school resumes following Martin Luther King Day.	Father	Mother
President's Day: From the time school recesses on Friday, preceding President's Day, until the time school resumes following President's Day.	Mother	Father

Child's Birthday: In the event a child's birthday falls on a day other than a day when Mother or Father would normally have custody, then, the parent without custody of the child shall have custody of the child according to the following schedule.

- (a) **In odd-numbered years:** Father shall have custody of the child **the day of the child's birthday** from the time school recesses for the day, if school is in session, or if school is not in session, from 8:00 o'clock a.m., until 6:00 o'clock p.m. Mother shall have the same custodial period in even-numbered years.

Parent's Birthday: The child shall celebrate each parent's birthday with that parent.

- (a) If Mother's or Father's birthday falls on a school day, then, that parent shall be entitled to custody with the child from the time school recesses, until 6:00 o'clock p.m. that day.
- (b) If Mother's or Father's birthday falls on a weekend, then, that parent shall be entitled to custody with the child from 8:00 o'clock a.m., until 6:00 o'clock p.m. that day.
- (c) Mother's and Father's birthday custodial periods shall preempt any other regularly scheduled week-end or week-day custodial period.

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Custodial Period Priority: The holiday and special occasion custodial periods set forth herein shall take precedence over any other custodial periods, including summer, with summer custodial periods to take precedence over all other custodial periods. Summer custodial periods shall not be utilized in addition to, or in conjunction with, regular weekend/weekday custodial periods, holiday custodial periods, or special occasion custodial periods to increase the summer custodial period, unless otherwise agreed to by and between Mother and Father.

Special Occasions: Mother and Father shall give special consideration to make the child available to attend family functions, including, but not limited to, funerals, weddings, family reunions, graduations, religious holidays, important ceremonies and/or other significant events in the life of the child or in the life of either parent which may inadvertently and/or occasionally conflict with the custodial periods set forth herein. In such event, Mother and Father shall work together to arrange for alternative and make-up custodial periods for any custodial periods lost by either parent due to such events.

Exchanges: Mother and Father shall each be responsible to pick up the child at the commencement of their custodial periods, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

School: For purposes of this Plan, "school" shall be defined as the school the child presently attends.

Right of First Refusal: Except for child related activities, including, but not limited to, sleepovers with family and/or friends, Mother and Father shall exercise the right of first (1st) refusal in the following circumstances before a non-parent provides such care, to-wit:

- (1) When a party exercising physical custody leaves this state without taking the child, then, that party shall offer the opportunity to care for the child to the other parent while out of the jurisdiction;
- (2) When a parent exercising physical custody of the minor child is physically unable to care for the child (i.e. illness, hospitalization, arrested, incarceration, etc.), then, during the temporary period of that inability, the other parent shall exercise the physical custody and care of the child; and,
- (3) When a party exercising physical visitation with the child must work (or attend training or school for furtherance of their employment) for a period greater than four (4) hours, then, that party shall offer the opportunity to care for the child during such work period to the other parent.

Telephone Contact: Mother and Father shall have reasonable, open, and unmonitored telephone contact with the child during those periods of time when they do not have custody of the child. Mother and Father shall each obtain, if not already obtained, and maintain in working order, a land based telephone at their residence to be utilized for telephone contact with the child. However, Mother and Father may substitute a working cellular telephone for a land based telephone. Unless otherwise agreed, reasonable telephone contact shall be defined as once during the day, between the hours of 9:00 o'clock a.m. and 8:30 o'clock p.m., for no more than

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thirty (30) minutes. Mother and Father shall be prohibited from screening or otherwise blocking the other party's telephone calls. If the parent uses an answering machine or cellular telephone voice mail, messages left on the machine or voice mail for the child shall be returned within twenty-four (24) hours.

Mail, Letter and Gifts: Mother and Father shall have unlimited contact with the minor child through the mail, including, e-mail, and any letters or gifts that either parent sends to the child shall be directed to the child in an unopened condition.

Party Communication: Mother and Father agree that it is in the best interest of the minor child that they refrain from communicating with or through the child as to all marital, child-sharing, court-related and financial matters between Mother and Father. Communication regarding these issues shall not occur at times of exchange of the child or during telephone contact with the child.

Parental Criticism: Mother and Father shall refrain from saying or doing anything in the presence or hearing of the child that would in any way diminish the child's love or affection for the other parent and/or parent's family and shall not allow others to do so.

Alcohol, Drugs and Smoke Free Environment: Mother and Father shall not excessively consume alcohol, or allow others to do so in the presence of the child, or abuse prescription drugs or narcotics, or use non-prescription illegal drugs or narcotics while in the presence of the minor child or expose the child to second hand smoke. Any smoking to be done at either party's residence while the child is in their custody shall be done outside the residence and presence of the child and each party shall ensure that others do the same.

Pornography: Mother and Father agree that each shall be prohibited from viewing any pornographic materials and/or paraphernalia, including, but not limited to, books, magazines, video tapes, sexual aids, or conducting such transactions via the Internet and/or telephone or computers in their respective residence or any other location while the child is in their custody, and each shall take all reasonable steps that may be necessary to ensure that such material and/or paraphernalia is not accessible to the child.

Child's Records: Mother and Father shall have the right to complete and unfettered access to all the minor child's school, medical, dental and psychological records. Neither parent shall in any way obstruct, hinder, or deter the other parent's right or ability to seek and obtain information pertaining to the minor child.

Activity Participation: Mother and Father acknowledge that the minor child has the right to participate in school activities, church activities, peer activities and other activities and/or associations appropriate for his age. Mother and Father shall have the right to be informed as to the schedule of such activities in which the child is involved and both shall be entitled to attend such activities. Mother and Father shall make a good faith effort to transport the minor child to activities on time, with all necessary equipment, and in appropriate attire even if such activities occur during custodial time with that parent. If the parent is not attending such activity, the parent who drops the child off for such activity has the duty to ensure that the child is picked up from such activity. Other than such regularly-scheduled activities, neither Mother or Father shall make any other commitments for the minor child during a time when the minor

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child would be with the other parent without first reaching an agreement with the other parent about such activity.

Address and Telephone Numbers: Mother and Father shall keep the other informed as to their address and telephone numbers, E-mail, residential, business, cellular and pager, and such information shall be made known to the other at all times. Any changes to above aforementioned shall be provided the other parent in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of the change.

Firearm Safety: Mother and Father are prohibited from carrying any weapons or firearms unless appropriately licensed by state and/or federal authorities. If a firearm is kept in either party's residence, then, in order to ensure the safest environment for the child, Mother and Father shall; (1) Take the ammunition out of the gun; (2) Lock the gun and keep it out of reach of the child. (3) Lock the ammunition and store it apart from the gun; (4) Store the keys for the gun and ammunition in different areas from storage of other household keys (The keys are to be kept out of reach and access of the child); and (5) Lock up gun cleaning supplies.

Transportation Safety: Mother and Father shall transport the child in a safe a manner as possible at all times and shall abide by all applicable seat belt and child restraint laws while transporting the child and shall ensure that others do so.

Cancellation of Custodial Periods: Mother and Father shall give the other at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice if unable to exercise holiday, summer, or other special occasion custodial periods.

Corporal Punishment: No person, other than Mother and Father, shall inflict, threaten to inflict, or assist in inflicting, corporal punishment on the minor child, and use of any instrument or device to inflict or threaten to inflict corporal punishment is strictly prohibited. Any corporal punishment shall be reasonable in force, having due regard to the age, sex, physical and mental condition of the child, and the nature of the child's offense and apparent motive, and shall not be disproportionate to the offense committed, unnecessarily degrading, or cause, or likely to cause, serious or permanent harm, or leave physical manifestations on the child's body, including, but not limited to, bruising.

Medication: Mother and Father agree that each shall ensure that the child takes all prescribed medications, if any, in the appropriate dosage and at the appropriate time during their custodial periods, and follow the recommendations and instructions of medical professionals treating the child. The medication prescribed and dosage recommended to be given to the child shall be mutual obligations of each party-parent to provide the other.

Child's Clothing/Belongings: Mother and Father shall each be responsible to maintain clothing for the child and other necessities the child may need while residing at each parent's respective residences. Further, it shall be the responsibility of Mother and Father to make sure that the child returns to the other parent's home with all clothing and belongings which were brought with the child at the commencement of their custodial periods.

Contact Lists: Mother and Father shall take such action as may be necessary with school authorities or other persons of authority charged with the care of the child to list the other parent as a parent of the child and to provide such authority with the parent's address and phone number and to advise such

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authorities that the other parent is a person that can and should be contacted in the case of an emergency involving the child.

Photographs: Mother and Father shall timely and promptly provide the other with notice of any school pictures or sports/activities pictures scheduled to occur and shall provide the other with an opportunity to obtain duplicate and/or copies of all school and/or sport photographs or studio portraits taken of the minor child, at the other party's sole cost and expense.

Rules of Transportation: Regarding transportation of the child, Mother and Father and their agent(s) shall adhere to the following rules of transportation:

- (1) The transporting vehicle shall meet the rules of the road of the State of Oklahoma.
- (2) The child shall be properly seated and belted; and
- (3) The transporting individual shall not be under the influence of any stimulant or intoxicant that alters the judgment of that individual.

Transportation Agents: Mother and Father shall be allowed to list up to three (3) agents who can serve to provide logistics (to and from) when a transportation conflict arises. The basic requirements of any agent are:

- (1) The individual shall be an adult;
- (2) The individual shall have a valid driver's license;
- (3) The individual shall not have pending criminal charges; and
- (4) The child shall have a comfort level with the individual.

It is not necessary that the other party approve of the agent so long as these requirements are met. These agents shall be known (by e-mail) to the other party and shall be included on the school information sheet as individuals, who may, in a conflict, pick up or deliver the child to the school and provide transportation logistics in lieu of the parent.

Out of State Travel: When a parent having physical custody of the child elects to leave this state overnight, or elects to have the child leave this jurisdiction overnight (without the parent), then, that parent shall, at least one (1) week in advance, or as soon as practicable under the circumstances, in writing (an e-mail is sufficient) notify the other parent of the following:

- (1) The purpose of and duration of the trip;
- (2) The itinerary of the trip (flight numbers, dates, times);
- (3) The names of any and all adults who will be accompanying the minor;

and,

- (4) A contact phone number that the remaining parent may use to call the

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child once daily.

Sex Offenders/Domestic Abuse: All contact with the child shall be specifically conditioned under no circumstances shall the child be left in the custody of any person who:

- (1) Is subject to registration under the Oklahoma Sex Offenders Registration Act or any similar Act in any other state;
- (2) Is Married to or living with a person who is subject to registration under the Oklahoma Sex Offenders Registration Act or any similar Act in any other state;
- (3) Has been convicted of or pleaded no contest to any crime involving domestic abuse; and/or,
- (4) Is married to or living with a person who has been convicted of or pleaded no contest to any crime involving domestic abuse.

No Overnights with Romantic/Sexual Partners During Time of Physical Custody: During any time either party exercises physical custody of the minor child, such party shall NOT stay overnight with a romantic or sexual partner unless or until such partner becomes the spouse of the party. This provision is intended to include any time that a party is exercising physical custody of the minor child whether such time is spent at home, on vacation, or elsewhere. This provision is not intended to prevent either party from having overnight guests, having a roommate or having a housemate with whom they are not romantically and/or sexually involved.

Criminal Charges: Mother and Father shall inform each other IMMEDIATELY (by phone, email, and/or in writing) of any arrest, criminal charge, any plea in a criminal court, any conviction or deferred sentence on any criminal matter involving either party or any other significant person involved in the child's life.

Changes in Custodial Arrangements: The custodial arrangements set forth in this Plan may be modified by Mother and Father by mutual agreement, however, it is in the best interest that any changes be done in writing, signed by Mother and Father and filed in this case with the Tulsa County Court Clerk's office, to avoid disagreements as to the changes and terms at a later date.

Judicial Order of Proper Conduct: Mother and Father shall be mindful of the Judicial Order for Proper Conduct of Separated or Divorced Parents attached hereto as **EXHIBIT "A"**.

7. In the event either Mother or Father remarries, that party's spouse should and shall be apprised of the terms of this *Plan*, and that party should and shall exert every reasonable and diligent effort to ensure that their spouse honors and respects the terms, provisions and conditions of this *Plan*.

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8. To provide for the ongoing financial support and care of the minor child, the Parties agree as follows:

- A. Child support shall be paid in accordance with the Oklahoma Child Support guidelines. A copy of the child support computation is attached to the Order of Paternity and incorporated by reference herein.

9. Father shall pay his proportionate share as shown on the child support computation consisting of **sixty-seven percent (67%)** and Mother shall pay her proportionate share as shown, consisting of **thirty-three percent (33%)**, (percentages are rounded off) of all child-care expenses incurred due to the employment or active employment search of either party, or incurred as a result of either party actually attending schooling or training for the purpose of enhancing his or her employment income. Mother and Father shall be responsible to timely supply to the other verification of any such child-care expenses incurred and paid by the paying party. Payment of each parties' share of such child-care expenses shall be made directly to the child-care provider on or before the date the child-care expense is due, or, alternatively, if payment has been made by a party directly to the child-care provider, in whole or in part, then, the non-paying party shall reimburse the paying party her/his share of such child-care expenses paid within ten (10) days thereof. Mother and Father shall provide the other with timely documentation of any change in the amount of child-care expenses. Mother's and Father's share of such child-care expenses shall be in addition to child support and those other child maintenance obligations.

10. Father shall pay his proportionate share as shown on Exhibit B, consisting of **sixty-seven percent (67%)** and Mother shall pay her proportionate share as shown on Exhibit B, consisting of **thirty-three percent (33%)**, of all reasonable and necessary medical, dental, orthodontic, optometric, psychological, prescription drug and any other physical or mental health

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expense of the child not reimbursed by insurance, including, co-pays and deductibles. Father and Mother shall each be responsible to supply proof of such expenses to the other within forty-five (45) days of receiving the Explanation of Benefits from the insurance provider or other proof of the expense if the expense is not covered by insurance. The non-paying party shall reimburse the paying party his/her proportionate share of such non-reimbursed medical, dental, orthodontic, optometric, psychological, prescription drug and any other physical or mental health expense of the child within thirty (30) days of receipt of documentation of the expense from the paying party. Mother's and Father's share of any unreimbursed medical expenses of the child shall be in addition to child support and those other child maintenance obligations.

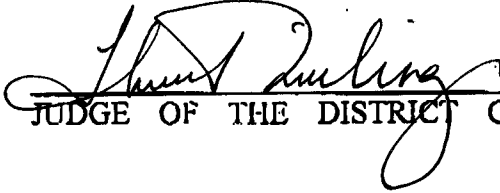
11. Presently, Father has health insurance coverage for the benefit of the minor child through his employer and he shall continue to provide such coverage. Father shall pay his proportionate share as shown, consisting of **sixty-seven percent (67%)** and Mother shall pay her proportionate share as shown, consisting of **thirty-three percent (33%)** of the child's health insurance premium expense. In the event of a change in the child's insurance premium expense, then, each party shall pay, or receive a credit for, such change in the health insurance premium expense.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner [REDACTED] and Respondent, [REDACTED] hereby jointly move this Court to approve the above and foregoing *Joint Custody Plan* as this Court's final plan in the best interest of the minor child of Mother and Father hereto and incorporate the same as part of the *Consent Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* filed contemporaneously herewith.

DATED this 14 day of Nov., 2016

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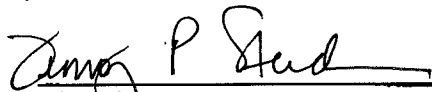
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JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

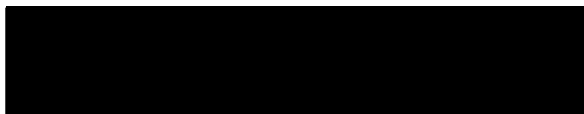


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APPROVED AS TO
FORM AND CONTENT:



Petitioner.

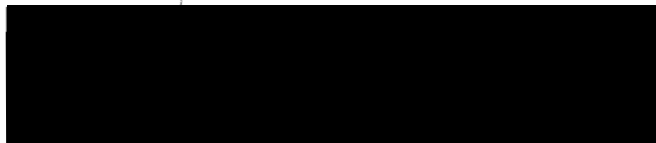


Respondent.

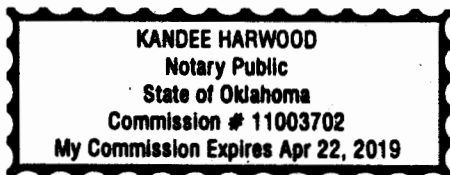
VERIFICATION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF TULSA)

Respondent herein, hereby swears and affirms that she has read the *Joint Custody Plan* requested to be entered in this cause, is familiar with the contents thereof, and agrees to be bound by the provisions of *Joint Custody Plan*.



SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 24th day of October, 2016.



Kande Harwood
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 4-22-2019
Commission No. 11003702

EXHIBIT A

**JUDICIAL ORDER FOR PROPER CONDUCT OF
SEPARATED OR DIVORCED PARENTS**

This Judicial Order is directed equally to both parties.

If there is bitterness between you, it should not be inflicted upon your children. In every child's mind there should always be an image of **TWO GOOD PARENTS**. Your future with your children and with this Court will be enhanced if you will follow these guidelines.

1. **Choosing One Parent Over the Other.** The divorce is not the children's fault. It is not because of anything they did. For the children, it is a confusing, frustrating experience over which they have no control. Children should not be made to feel like they need to choose sides when their parents are at odds.
2. **Blame for Divorce.** Children will tend to blame themselves for the divorce and you must constantly reassure them that they are not to blame; that it happens to all kinds of children; and that they are not alone.
3. **Conflict After Divorce.** Research is now suggesting that it is not the divorce itself that hurts the children, but rather the conflict that they have to live with afterwards that results in maladjustment.
4. **Access to Both Parents.** It is important for children to have access to both parents for a balanced picture of male and female roles. They need your time and attention far more than presents. A child can love both parents more if they do not pressure him or her to love one parent less. They will generally not feel very close to the one parent who continually puts down the other and are quick to go for guidance to the parent who has a positive attitude toward life.
5. **Arguments and Fighting.** Your child's sense of who he or she is comes from both parents. They will be burdened if they are told of their parent's shortcomings. Spare your children the pain and experience of seeing his or her parents fighting. This only adds to the pain of divorce and the feeling that the conflict is over him or her.
6. **Mourning.** Do your mourning with your adult friends and family rather than using your children as your therapist.
7. **Verbal Criticisms.** Do not criticize or berate the other parent, members of the other parent's family, acquaintances, or employees.
8. **Burdening With Adult Matters.** Do not burden your children with the worries and troubles of adults. Give your children unconditional love – they need it at this time more than any other. Remember, they are children only once and for a relatively short period of time. Do not discuss with them details of any pending litigation matters.

9. **Sexual Relations.** Do not expose your children to inappropriate sexual relations with any person with whom you may be emotionally involved.
10. **Drinking and Unreasonable Hours.** Do not transport the children in a motor vehicle driven by you if you have been drinking alcoholic beverages or are intoxicated. Minimize consumption of alcoholic beverages in the presence of the children and never become intoxicated when the children are in your care.
11. **Address, Telephone Number and Serious Illness or Injury.** You are required to keep the other parent informed of any change of address and change of telephone number of yourself and the children at all times. All such changes must be reported immediately. You are required to inform the other parent at once of serious illness or injury to the children.
12. **Frequent and Continuing Contact with Both Parents.** When in the best interest of the children, it is the Court's policy to assure children of frequent and continuing contact with both parents and encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing. To this end, when awarding custody, the Court considers which parent is more likely to allow the children frequent and continuing contact with the non-custodial parent.
13. **Questioning Children.** Make your visitation as pleasant as possible for your children by not questioning them regarding the activities of the other parent.
14. **Visitation and Other Plans.** Parents must realize that visitation takes precedence over other plans for the children. However, infrequently there may be conflicts between visitation and plans which are in the best interest of the children. Both parents are required to work out this problem together as mature adults.
15. **Children as Messengers.** Do not use your visitation to continue argument with the other parent. Never quarrel in the presence of the children. You should not use the children as messengers to communicate with the other parent.
16. **Timely Communication.** Do not attempt to visit or telephone your children at unreasonable hours.
17. **Keeping Scheduled Visitation.** Always notify the other parent as soon as possible if you are unable to keep your scheduled visitation. It is unfair to your children to keep them waiting and even worse to disappoint them by not coming at all. It is in the best interest of the children that scheduled visitation be timely. A visiting parent waiting or no parent present at the time the child is returned is an aggravation leading to confrontations in the presence of the children.
18. **Children's Clothing and Medications.** The custodial parent must prepare the children both physically and mentally for the visitation. The children and necessities for their care should be available by the custodial parent to the non-custodial parent at the time mutually agreed upon or the time set by the Court. This includes clothing and

medications. All items furnished by the custodial parent must be returned with the children.

19. **Visitation and Children Support.** The issues of visitation and child support are separate and distinct. Neither is dependent upon the other and both are independently enforceable by Contempt. Nonpayment of child support does not relieve one of complying with a visitation order and, likewise, denied visitation does not relieve one of paying child support.
20. **Child Support.** Be prompt in paying child support exactly as ordered. You will not be credited with presents, clothes, etc., as part of child support. The parent who has a duty of paying child support must always maintain proof of payment (i.e. receipts, canceled checks, etc.) and be in a position to prove the payment to the Court.
21. **Raising Children in a Proper, Cooperative Way.** Each parent must realize the most important job is to carry out the responsibility of raising children in a proper, cooperative way. Always work for the emotional well-being, health, happiness, and safety of your children. Use good judgment and your very best example to achieve these goals. Schedule regular dental and medical examinations. When driving, secure your children in seat belts or a child-restraint seat. Never expose your children to excessive alcohol consumption or inappropriate or illegal drug use nor any dangerous, immoral, or illegal situation or circumstances.
22. **Children's Medical Attention.** The custodial parent shall promptly inform the non-custodial parent of any illness of the children which shall require medical attention. The custodial parent is responsible to the provider for all medical and dental expenses of the children over and above what is covered by insurance. The custodial parent shall provide the non-custodial parent documentation from the provider of the actual expenses, the amount paid by insurance and the balance owing within thirty (30) days of receipt of same. The non-custodial parent shall reimburse the custodial parent his or her percentage share as determined under the child support guidelines within thirty (30) days of receipt of such documentation.
23. **Medical and/or Dental Insurance.** The parent that has the responsibility for providing major medical and/or dental insurance, or any type of insurance for the children, or who has voluntarily provided insurance for the children, is required to keep the other parent informed of the proper name and address of the company, any changes in the benefits, any and all pre-admittance notices required by the company, benefit cards with dependant identification numbers, and any other information reasonably necessary to assure the children are covered and claims are properly presented to the insurance provider.
24. **Child Care Expenses.** The custodial parent is responsible to the provider for all child care expenses of the children. The custodial parent shall provide to the non-custodial parent documentation from the provider of actual expenses within thirty (30) days of

receipt of same. The non-custodial parent shall reimburse the custodial parent his or her percentage share as determined under the child support guidelines within thirty (30) days of receipt of such documentation.

25. **Schedules of School, Church or Extracurricular Activities.** It shall be the duty of the custodial parent to inform the non-custodial parent of any school, church, or extracurricular activities or functions pertaining to your children; including but not limited to, teacher conferences, open house, awards, banquets, sporting events, school plays, report cards, test results, school photographs and similar items. It shall be the duty of the custodial parent to inform and provide copies of such to the non-custodial parent as soon as same is made available to the custodial parent. It shall be the duty of the custodial parent to take the necessary action with the school authorities to list the non-custodial parent as a parent of the children provide the school with the non-custodial parent's address and phone numbers, and if practicable, list the non-custodial parent as a person to be contacted in case of an emergency.
26. **Participation in Children's School, Extracurricular or Church Activities.** It shall be the duty of the non-custodial parent to facilitate your child's continued participation in your child's activities, extracurricular activities, sporting activities or church activities during your visitation periods.
27. **Respect.** Do not accuse or blame or nag the other parent about the things which have happened in the past. Use the same degree of consideration, respect, and kindness toward the other parent that you expect in return. You must respect the fact that the opposing party is your child's Dad or Mom and treat them accordingly.
29. **Contact With Court.** All parties are advised that it is improper and unethical to discuss any pending matter with the Court unless both parties and their attorneys are present
30. **Bill of Rights.** Incorporated by reference is the Bill of Rights for Children of Divorce.

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

1. The right to be treated as important human beings, with unique feelings, ideas and desires and not as a source of argument between parents.
2. The right to a continuing relationship with both parents and a freedom to receive love from and express love for both.
3. The right to express love and affection for each parent without having to stifle that love because of fear or disapproval by the other parent.
4. The right to know that their parents' decision to divorce is not their responsibility and that they will live with one parent and will visit the other parent.
5. The right to continuing care and guidance from both parents.

6. The right to honest answers to questions about the changing family relationships.
7. The right to know and appreciate what is good in each parent without one parent degrading the other.
8. The right to have a relaxed, secure relationship with both parents without being placed in a position to manipulate one parent against the other.
9. The right to have the custodial parent not undermine visitation by suggesting tempting alternatives or by threatening to withhold visitation as punishment.
10. The right to be able to experience regular and consistent visitation and the right to know the reason for a cancelled visit.

[REDACTED]

(PETITIONER)

[REDACTED]

(RESPONDENT)