

# **Supplement**

## **Section 5 – G.A.L.s & P.C.s**

STATE OF INDIANA            )        IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY COURT NO. \_\_\_\_  
  )SS  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_)        CAUSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:        )  
\_\_\_\_\_,                                )  
                                  Petitioner,        )  
                                  vs.                                )  
\_\_\_\_\_,                                )  
                                  Respondent.        )

**PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF PARENTING COORDINATOR**

Petitioner/Respondent, \_\_\_\_\_, files a Petition for Appointment of Parenting Coordinator for the benefit of the parties' child(ren), and in support thereof, states as follows:

1.        There is/are \_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) child(ren) born of this marriage, namely \_\_\_\_\_, born \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2.        The Petitioner/Respondent believes a Parenting Coordinator would be of assistance in drafting, and negotiating ongoing conflicts, of a shared parenting plan and contact/parenting time schedule to minimize child-related conflicts between the parents, and to assist in eliminating unproductive or harmful behavior patterns by one or both of the parties.
  
3.        It is in the child(ren)'s best interest and expedient to the administration of justice that a Parenting Coordinator be appointed to assist the parents in resolving conflict in a way that is beneficial to the child(ren). The Parenting Coordinator should address the following parenting or decision-making issues:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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4. The Parenting Coordinator should be appointed for a maximum of two (2) years.

5. A hearing on appointment of a Parenting Coordinator should take no longer than fifteen (15) minutes. WHEREFORE, the Petitioner/Respondent, prays the Court, after hearing, appoint a Parenting Coordinator to assist the parties in effective parenting for the benefit of the child(ren), and for all other relief deemed proper in the premises.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Attorney for petitioner/respondent**

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY COURT NO.

\_\_\_\_\_)SS  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_) CAUSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: )  
\_\_\_\_\_)  
Petitioner, )  
vs. )  
\_\_\_\_\_)  
Respondent. )

**ORDER**

The \_\_\_\_\_ having filed a Petition for Appointment of Parenting Coordinator, and the court being duly advised in the premises, does hereby set this matter for hearing for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes, on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_. Notice to the Parties.

*SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.*

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JUDGE, \_\_\_\_\_ County Court No. \_\_\_\_

Distribution:

**Attorney for Petitioner**

**Attorney for Respondent**

**Parenting Coordinator**

STATE OF INDIANA            )        IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY COURT NO. \_\_\_\_  
  )SS  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_)        CAUSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:        )  
\_\_\_\_\_,                                )  
                                  Petitioner,        )  
                                  vs.                                )  
\_\_\_\_\_,                                )  
                                  Respondent.        )

**ORDER APPOINTING LEVEL I PARENTING COORDINATOR**

Petitioner/Respondent, \_\_\_\_\_, having filed a Petition for Appointment of Parenting Coordinator, such Petition being a part of this Court’s record. And the Court having reviewed the same and being duly advised in the premises now finds the same should be granted.

The major components of the existing custody and visitation arrangement are as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The Court identifies the issues to be addressed by the Parent Coordinator as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT:**

**1. Appointment.** The Court hereby appoints \_\_\_\_\_ as Parenting Coordinator (hereinafter “PC”) in this case, whose address and telephone number are:

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and the parties shall immediately contact said PC for scheduling purposes.

**2. Expenses.** Petitioner shall pay \_\_\_\_\_% and Respondent shall pay \_\_\_\_\_% of the PC's fees, including any retainer amount, for joint services. In addition, the PC shall be reimbursed for any expenses incurred, including, but not limited to, photocopies, messenger service, long distance telephone charges, express and/or certified mail costs, parking, mileage, and other travel expenses. The PC shall have the discretion to report to the Court that the PC desires to charge either party separately for individual contacts with that party or joint contacts made necessary by that party's behavior. The Court shall have the power to review, reallocate and enforce the payment of the fees of the PC. In the event that the testimony and or written report of the PC is required for any hearing, settlement conference or court action by one or both parties, the PC's fees for such services shall be paid by both parties, in advance according to the estimate provided by the PC.

**3. Role of the PC.**

**LEVEL I.** The PC **shall** make recommendations and work to resolve conflicts between the parents involving the designated issues, which do not affect the Court's exclusive jurisdiction to determine fundamental issues of custody and parenting time. Such recommendations, negotiations, and education shall include strategies for enforcing any shared parenting plan and contact/parenting time schedule, for minimizing child-related conflicts between the parties, and for eliminating unproductive or harmful behavior patterns by one or both parents.

Further, the PC shall file a recommendation with the Court when and if the PC believes it necessary to modify the Level at which the PC is operating.

**4. Issues for the PC to address:**

The PC shall always address the basic co-parenting issues which include but are not limited to the following list:

- a. implementing any voluntary or court-ordered plan or schedule so that the child(ren) have continuous and consistent contact with both parents;
- b. vacation and/or holiday schedules;
- c. transportation issues;
- d. methods of pick-up and delivery;
- e. dates and times of pick-up and delivery;
- f. childcare, daycare and babysitting issues;
- g. extracurricular and enrichment activities;
- h. bedtime issues;
- i. diet issues;
- j. clothing issues;
- k. discipline issues;
- l. healthcare management;
- m. participation in parenting time by significant others, relatives, etc.;
- n. in the case of infants and toddlers, increasing parenting time when

- developmentally appropriate pursuant to the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines or existing court order;
- o. educate parents on how to effectively;
    - i. communicate and negotiate;
    - ii. develop and apply parenting skills;
    - iii. meet the developmental needs of their child(ren);
    - iv. disengage from each other when engagement leads to conflict;
    - v. keep their child(ren) out of the middle of their adult disagreements; and identify the sources of their conflict with one another and work jointly to minimize conflict and lessen its harmful effects on the child(ren);
  - p. monitor the safety issues on behalf of the child(ren);
  - q. monitor safety issues in those cases involving domestic violence;
  - r. monitor implementation of a voluntary or court-ordered parenting plan or contact/parenting time schedule and mediate the parents' disputes regarding such plan or schedule;

In addition, the PC shall address the following issues specific to these Parties (check all that apply):

- \_\_\_\_\_ recommend to the parents that one or both parents avail themselves of available and appropriate community resources, including, but not limited to, physical examinations, random drug screens, parenting classes, custody evaluation, and individual psychotherapy; and if such a recommendation is made, the PC SHALL select and manage such treatment team, if the PC determines necessary;
- \_\_\_\_\_ write detailed guidelines or recommended rules to help the parents communicate with one another and practice implementing those guidelines or rules. If either parent lacks parenting skills, the Coordinator shall work with that parent to teach the necessary skills or to refer the parent to an appropriate parenting skills course;
- \_\_\_\_\_ recommend a means of compliance with any parenting plan or parenting schedule in the Court's Order;
- \_\_\_\_\_ when the parents cannot agree on a resolution of conflicts, and when it is necessary to promote the child(ren)'s best interests, recommend modification of a parenting plan or contact/parenting time schedule, reduce such recommendations to writing, and provide them to the parents and to any attorney who represents either parent;
- \_\_\_\_\_ recommend a final decision on any parenting issue concerning which the parents reach an impasse, by submitting a written recommendation to the parties and their counsel, and the same shall be binding until further Order;
- \_\_\_\_\_ facilitate communication between the parents by serving, if necessary, as a conduit for information;
- \_\_\_\_\_ recommend, where appropriate, the institution or cessation of supervised visitation;
- \_\_\_\_\_ when the parents cannot agree on a resolution, make

recommendations regarding religion, religious training and church attendance, when in the best interests of the child(ren);  
\_\_\_\_\_ recommend a final decision with regard to large changes in vacation and/or holiday time shares, when appropriate;  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**5. The PC shall not:**

- (a) serve as a custody evaluator in the case
- (b) offer a binding recommendation for a change in the child(ren)'s primary physical residence, but MAY advise the parties or their counsel for the need of a review of custody or a custody evaluation;
- (c) address significant financial matters between the parents;
- (d) attempt to exercise judicial authority;
- (e) be contacted by either parent outside normal working hours, unless the matter constitutes a genuine emergency.
- (f) substantially alter the percentage of parenting time between parents.

**6. Meeting with the PC.**

- (a) In fulfilling his or her responsibilities, the PC shall be entitled to communicate with the parents and their children, separately or together, in person or by telephone; with the health care providers and mental health providers for the parents and the child(ren); and with any other third parties reasonably deemed necessary by the PC. The parents shall cooperate with the PC and shall execute any releases which may be necessary to permit the above communication to occur.
- (b) Each parent is responsible for contacting the PC to schedule and arrange initial appointments.
- (c) The parents shall provide copies of all pleadings, orders and correspondence that relate to the issues to be brought to the PC. These documents shall initially be provided within ten (10) days of the date of this Order.
- (d) Each parent shall direct any disagreement with the other parent regarding the children to the PC. The PC shall work with both parents to resolve the conflict, and, if necessary, will recommend an appropriate resolution to the parents and their legal counsel.
- (e) The parents and all agencies shall participate in good faith in the dispute resolution process.



- (f) The PC may also communicate with the Court, as necessary for instructions and procedural matters. Such communication shall not be considered **ex parte**, and such communication shall not constitute testimony or be relied upon by the Court for issuance of an order absent an open hearing, with opportunity for the cross examination of the PC. No substantive matters shall be discussed without prior notice to all parties and opportunity for all parties to be present for such communication.

**7. Written and Oral Report and Court Appearances.**

- (a) The PC may submit written reports to the parents and/or their counsel, if the parent is represented by counsel, describing any conflicts and the PC's recommended resolutions. The PC may also report to the parents and/or their counsel, if the parent is represented by counsel, with regard to parental compliance and attitudes regarding any element of the parenting plan or parenting time schedule.
- (b) A PC shall submit a written report to the parents and/or their counsel, if a parent is represented by counsel, at the completion of services, and may submit interim reports.
- (c) Copies of all reports shall be filed with the Court and shall be sent to the parents and/or their counsel, if a parent is represented by counsel, at least ten (10) days prior to any hearing in the matter.
- (d) Upon review of any written reports filed by the PC, the Court may, on its own Motion, schedule a status conference or hearing in this matter.

**8. Terms of Appointment.**

- (a) The PC is appointed until the pending Petition or Motion is resolved by the Court.
- (b) The PC, at any time, may be discharged by the Court with or without petition from a party. The PC may be disqualified on any of the grounds applicable for the removal of a judge, mediator, or arbitrator.
- (c) The PC may apply directly to the Court for a discharge, and shall provide the parties and/or counsel, if a party is represented by counsel, with notice of the application for discharge.
- (d) The Court may discharge the PC without a hearing unless either party within fifteen (15) days in writing requests a hearing on the application for discharge.
- (e) At the completion of services, the PC shall forward a closing statement to the parents and/or their counsel, if a parent is represented by counsel. After the case is closed by Court Order, the PC may be available as needed to the family if reinstated by an Order of the Court.
- (f) No therapist-patient relationship and/or privilege is created between the PC and the parents or the minor child(ren).

**9. Confidentiality.**

**There is NO privilege or right of confidentiality between the children, the Parties and the PC.** All information related to the PC may be communicated by the PC to the Court. The PC acts in the capacity of an officer of the court, and as such is responsible for and must report to the Court. Regardless, the PC shall report all binding recommendations to the Court, and provide the Court with a status report on the progress of the PC every six (6) months.

**10. Cooperation/Release of Information.**

The Parties are ordered to cooperate with the PC, provide all relevant documentation to the PC, and to sign any and all release of information forms, or otherwise provide all authority necessary for the PC to obtain all medical, educational, counseling and treatment information of the Parties, the children or any other person as necessary to the role of the PC.

Further, the Parties, or their representatives are ordered to provide and gather all information necessary to the role of the PC, including but not limited to medical, educational, counseling and treatment information of the Parties, the children, or any other person necessary to the recommendations of the PC.

**11. Incorporation of Agreed Matters into Enforceable Court Orders.**

Although one of the goals of the PC is to encourage parents to harmoniously resolve shared parenting issues without the need for a Court hearing, the negotiated or agreed matters shall be memorialized in writing, signed by the parties, copied to counsel if the parties are represented, and submitted to the Court for approval.

**12. AUTHORITY, QUALIFICATIONS, AND EXPERTISE**

This appointment is based upon the expertise of the PC as a licensed mental health professional. Further the Court finds that such PC is entitled to judicial immunity pursuant to Indiana law.

**13. The COURT FURTHER ORDERS THAT:**

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SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

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JUDGE, \_\_\_\_\_ County Court No. \_\_\_\_

Distribution:

Attorney for Petitioner  
Attorney for Respondent  
Parenting Coordinator

STATE OF INDIANA            )        IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY COURT NO. \_\_\_\_  
  )SS  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_)        CAUSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:        )  
\_\_\_\_\_,                                )  
                                  Petitioner,        )  
                                  vs.                                )  
\_\_\_\_\_,                                )  
                                  Respondent.        )

**ORDER APPOINTING LEVEL II/III PARENTING COORDINATOR**

Petitioner/Respondent, \_\_\_\_\_, having filed a Petition for Appointment of Parenting Coordinator, such Petition being a part of this Court’s record. And the Court having reviewed the same and being duly advised in the premises now finds the same should be granted.

The major components of the existing custody and visitation arrangement are as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The Court identifies the issues to be addressed by the Parent Coordinator as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT:**

**1. Appointment.** The Court hereby appoints \_\_\_\_\_ as Parenting Coordinator (hereinafter “PC”) in this case, whose address and telephone number are: \_\_\_\_\_, and the parties shall immediately contact said PC for scheduling purposes.

**2. Expenses.** Petitioner shall pay \_\_\_\_\_% and Respondent shall pay \_\_\_\_\_% of the PC's fees, including any retainer amount, for joint services. In addition, the PC shall be reimbursed for any expenses incurred, including, but not limited to, photocopies, messenger service, long distance telephone charges, express and/or certified mail costs, parking, mileage, and other travel expenses. The PC shall have the discretion to report to the Court that the PC desires to charge either party separately for individual contacts with that party or joint contacts made necessary by that party's behavior. The Court shall have the power to review, reallocate and enforce the payment of the fees of the PC. In the event that the testimony and or written report of the PC is required for any hearing, settlement conference or court action by one or both parties, the PC's fees for such services shall be paid by both parties, in advance according to the estimate provided by the PC.

**3. Role of the PC (Determination of PC Level).** The Court orders that the appointed PC shall be (Check either or both Levels):

\_\_\_\_\_ **LEVEL II.**

**A. Role of the PC.** The PC **shall** make recommendations and work to resolve conflicts between the parents involving the designated issues, which do not affect the Court's exclusive jurisdiction to determine fundamental issues of custody and parenting time. Such recommendations, negotiations, and education shall include strategies for enforcing any shared parenting plan and contact/parenting time schedule, for minimizing child-related conflicts between the parties, and for eliminating unproductive or harmful behavior patterns by one or both parents;

**B. Authority of the PC.** The PC shall attempt to resolve conflicts between the Parties by recommendation, negotiation, education and discussion. Provided however, that the PC shall make binding recommendations if the Parties are unable to reach a decision through recommendation, negotiation, education or discussion. In such cases, the PC shall provide written documentation of the PC's binding recommendations to the Parties and their counsel at least two (2) days prior to filing such with the Court.

**The recommendation is binding pending review by the Court.** If there is no objection within seven (7) days of the recommendation being made, then the recommendation is binding pending a substantial change in circumstances such that the recommendation is no longer reasonable.

**C. Objection to Recommendations.** If either Party objects to the recommendations by filing a petition to the Court for a hearing, within the time limit, the Court shall hold a hearing on whether or not such recommendation shall remain binding. The hearing shall be an expedited hearing, and if possible shall be conducted by summary testimony from counsel. Counsel shall keep such objections and hearing specific and concise. No issues not raised in objection to the Recommendations shall be addressed by the court in this expedited hearing.

**D. Level of PC.** The PC shall file a recommendation with the Court when and if the PC believes it necessary to modify the Level at which the PC is operating.

\_\_\_\_\_ **LEVEL III.**

A. Role of the PC. The PC shall make recommendations, select providers for and monitor treatment, evaluation, and services for the family as necessary. The PC shall be entitled to recommend, and if necessary, select treatment for either parent, the children or all parties. The PC shall monitor the treatment and evaluations to ensure that the treatment meets the needs of the parties.

B. Authority of the PC. Any such treatment, evaluations or services recommended shall be monitored by the PC.

In such cases or recommendation, the PC shall provide written documentation of the PC's recommendations to the Parties and their counsel.

Unless the Court orders that the PC's recommendations on treatment, evaluation and services are not binding, then **The recommendation is binding pending review by the Court.** If there is no objection within seven (7) days of the recommendation being made, then the recommendation is binding pending a substantial change in circumstances such that the recommendation is no longer reasonable.

C. Objection to Recommendations. If either Party objects to the recommendations by filing a petition to the Court for a hearing, within the time limit, the Court shall hold a hearing on whether or not such recommendation shall remain binding. The hearing shall be an expedited hearing, and if possible shall be conducted by summary testimony from counsel. Counsel shall keep such objections and hearing specific and concise. No issues not raised in objection to the Recommendations shall be addressed by the court in this expedited hearing.

D. Level of PC. The PC shall file a recommendation with the Court when and if the PC believes it necessary to modify the Level at which the PC is operating.

#### **4. Issues for the PC to address:**

The PC shall always address the basic co-parenting issues which include but are not limited to the following list:

- a. implementing any voluntary or court-ordered plan or schedule so that the child(ren) have continuous and consistent contact with both parents;
- b. vacation and/or holiday schedules;
- c. transportation issues;
- d. methods of pick-up and delivery;
- e. dates and times of pick-up and delivery;
- f. childcare, daycare and babysitting issues;
- g. extracurricular and enrichment activities;
- h. bedtime issues;
- i. diet issues;
- j. clothing issues;
- k. discipline issues;
- l. healthcare management;
- m. participation in parenting time by significant others, relatives, etc.;
- n. in the case of infants and toddlers, increasing parenting time when developmentally appropriate pursuant to the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines or existing court order;
- o. educate parents on how to effectively;
  - i. communicate and negotiate;

- ii. develop and apply parenting skills;
- iii. meet the developmental needs of their child(ren);
- iv. disengage from each other when engagement leads to conflict;
- v. keep their child(ren) out of the middle of their adult disagreements; and identify the sources of their conflict with one another and work jointly to minimize conflict and lessen its harmful effects on the child(ren);
- p. monitor the safety issues on behalf of the child(ren);
- q. monitor safety issues in those cases involving domestic violence;
- r. monitor implementation of a voluntary or court-ordered parenting plan or contact/parenting time schedule and mediate the parents' disputes regarding such plan or schedule;

In addition, the PC shall address the following issues specific to these Parties (check all that apply):

- recommend to the parents that one or both parents avail themselves of available and appropriate community resources, including, but not limited to, physical examinations, random drug screens, parenting classes, custody evaluation, and individual psychotherapy; and if such a recommendation is made, the PC SHALL select and manage such treatment team, if the PC determines necessary;
- write detailed guidelines or recommended rules to help the parents communicate with one another and practice implementing those guidelines or rules. If either parent lacks parenting skills, the Coordinator shall work with that parent to teach the necessary skills or to refer the parent to an appropriate parenting skills course;
- recommend a means of compliance with any parenting plan or parenting schedule in the Court's Order;
- when the parents cannot agree on a resolution of conflicts, and when it is necessary to promote the child(ren)'s best interests, recommend modification of a parenting plan or contact/parenting time schedule, reduce such recommendations to writing, and provide them to the parents and to any attorney who represents either parent;
- recommend a final decision on any parenting issue concerning which the parents reach an impasse, by submitting a written recommendation to the parties and their counsel, and the same shall be binding until further Order;
- facilitate communication between the parents by serving, if necessary, as a conduit for information;
- recommend, where appropriate, the institution or cessation of supervised visitation;
- when the parents cannot agree on a resolution, make recommendations regarding religion, religious training and church attendance, when in the best interests of the child(ren);
- recommend a final decision with regard to large changes in vacation and/or holiday time shares, when appropriate;

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**5. The PC shall not:**

- (a) serve as a custody evaluator in the case
- (b) offer a binding recommendation for a change in the child(ren)'s primary physical residence, but MAY advise the parties or their counsel for the need of a review of custody or a custody evaluation;
- (c) address significant financial matters between the parents;
- (d) attempt to exercise judicial authority;
- (e) be contacted by either parent outside normal working hours, unless the matter constitutes a genuine emergency.
- (f) substantially alter the percentage of parenting time between parents.

**6. Meeting with the PC.**

- (a) In fulfilling his or her responsibilities, the PC shall be entitled to communicate with the parents and their children, separately or together, in person or by telephone; with the health care providers and mental health providers for the parents and the child(ren); and with any other third parties reasonably deemed necessary by the PC. The parents shall cooperate with the PC and shall execute any releases which may be necessary to permit the above communication to occur.
- (b) Each parent is responsible for contacting the PC to schedule and arrange initial appointments.
- (c) The parents shall provide copies of all pleadings, orders and correspondence that relate to the issues to be brought to the PC. These documents shall initially be provided within ten (10) days of the date of this Order.
- (d) Each parent shall direct any disagreement with the other parent regarding the children to the PC. The PC shall work with both parents to resolve the conflict, and, if necessary, will recommend an appropriate resolution to the parents and their legal counsel.
- (e) The parents and all agencies shall participate in good faith in the dispute resolution process.
- (f) The PC may also communicate with the Court, as necessary for instructions and procedural matters. Such communication shall not be considered **ex parte**, and such communication shall not constitute



testimony or be relied upon by the Court for issuance of an order absent an open hearing, with opportunity for the cross examination of the PC. No substantive matters shall be discussed without prior notice to all parties and opportunity for all parties to be present for such communication.

**7. Written and Oral Report and Court Appearances.**

- (a) The PC may submit written reports to the parents and/or their counsel, if the parent is represented by counsel, describing any conflicts and the PC's recommended resolutions. The PC may also report to the parents and/or their counsel, if the parent is represented by counsel, with regard to parental compliance and attitudes regarding any element of the parenting plan or parenting time schedule.
- (b) A PC shall submit a written report to the parents and/or their counsel, if a parent is represented by counsel, at the completion of services, and may submit interim reports.
- (c) Copies of all reports shall be filed with the Court and shall be sent to the parents and/or their counsel, if a parent is represented by counsel, at least ten (10) days prior to any hearing in the matter.
- (d) Upon review of any written reports filed by the PC, the Court may, on its own Motion, schedule a status conference or hearing in this matter.
- (e) When necessary, decisions of the PC shall be made orally and shall become binding when communicated to both parties orally. However, such decisions shall be communicated in writing as soon as practicable.

**8. Terms of Appointment.**

- (a) The PC is appointed until the pending Petition or Motion is resolved by the Court.
- (b) The PC, at any time, may be discharged by the Court with or without petition from a party. The PC may be disqualified on any of the grounds applicable for the removal of a judge, mediator, or arbitrator.
- (c) The PC may apply directly to the Court for a discharge, and shall provide the parties and/or counsel, if a party is represented by counsel, with notice of the application for discharge.
- (d) The Court may discharge the PC without a hearing unless either party within fifteen (15) days in writing requests a hearing on the application for discharge.
- (f) At the completion of services, the PC shall forward a closing statement to the parents and/or their counsel, if a parent is represented by counsel. After the case is closed by Court Order, the PC may be available as needed to the family if reinstated by an Order of the Court.
- (i) No therapist-patient relationship and/or privilege is created between the PC and the parents or the minor child(ren).

**9. Confidentiality.**

**There is NO privilege or right of confidentiality between the children, the Parties and the PC.** All information related to the PC may be communicated by the PC to the Court. The PC acts in the capacity of an officer of the court, and as such is responsible for and must report to the Court. Regardless, the PC shall report all binding recommendations to the Court, and provide the Court with a status report on the progress of the PC every six (6) months.

**10. Cooperation/Release of Information.**

The Parties are ordered to cooperate with the PC, provide all relevant documentation to the PC, and to sign any and all release of information forms, or otherwise provide all authority necessary for the PC to obtain all medical, educational, counseling and treatment information of the Parties, the children or any other person as necessary to the role of the PC.

Further, the Parties, or their representatives are ordered to provide and gather all information necessary to the role of the PC, including but not limited to medical, educational, counseling and treatment information of the Parties, the children, or any other person necessary to the recommendations of the PC.

**11. Incorporation of Agreed Matters into Enforceable Court Orders.**

Although one of the goals of the PC is to encourage parents to harmoniously resolve shared parenting issues without the need for a Court hearing, the negotiated or agreed matters shall be memorialized in writing, signed by the parties, copied to counsel if the parties are represented, and submitted to the Court for approval.

**12. Authority, Qualifications, and Expertise.**

This appointment is based upon the expertise of the PC as a licensed mental health professional. Further the Court finds that such PC is entitled to judicial immunity pursuant to Indiana law.

**13. THE COURT FURTHER ORDERS THAT:**

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SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

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JUDGE, \_\_\_\_\_ County Court No. \_\_\_\_

Distribution:

Attorney for Petitioner  
Attorney for Respondent  
Parenting Coordinator

**PETITION FOR GUARDIAN AD LITEM APPOINTMENT**

\*, \*, by counsel, respectfully requests that the Court appoint a Guardian ad Litem for the benefit of the parties' child/children and in support thereof, states as follows:

1. There w\* \* (\*) child\* born of this marriage, namely \*, born \*.
2. Custody is an issue in this matter and \* believes there is evidence and information that should be obtained from the child\* by a Guardian ad Litem.
3. \* believes that a Guardian ad Litem is crucial to assist the Court in its determination of custody and visitation.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\*

Attorney for \*

**VERIFICATION**

I affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that the foregoing representations are true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*

**ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM**

\* , \* , by counsel, having filed \* Petition for Guardian ad Litem Appointment; and the Court, having read said petition and being duly advised in the premises, now finds that said petition is meritorious and should be granted.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Court that \_\_\_\_\_ should be, and hereby is, appointed Guardian Ad Litem for the parties' minor child/children, \*. The parties are ordered to cooperate with the scheduling of meetings with the Guardian ad Litem.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE, County Court #\*

Copies to:

\*