

USER GUIDELINES NORTH DAKOTA MODEL PARENTING PLAN

North Dakota's model parenting plan is just that – a model. Other formats are acceptable as long as they include the following required elements:

- Decision making responsibility
- Information sharing and access
- Legal residence
- Residential responsibility
- Parenting time schedule
- Provisions for transportation and exchange of children
- Procedure for review and adjustment of the parenting plan, and;
- Methods for resolving disputes

The parenting plan form is meant to be user friendly and fill able. You may print and handwrite in the blanks or download and edit the form so it is relevant to your particular case.

You may attach additional sheets that address issues in more detail or address other areas not covered by the model.

The model should be considered a minimum. You may want to include other cost provisions not addressed in the model, e.g., costs of transportation for parenting time, costs of daycare, costs of extracurricular activities, equipment, fees, tuition, and the like.

The parenting plan should be attached as an exhibit to any divorce judgment or other order. The terms should be incorporated by reference into any marital dissolution agreement or parenting dispute and Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for Judgment.

The first three pages of the model are to be included with the parenting plan filed with the court. This includes the introduction, parenting tips and information on domestic violence.

Appendices A and B should **not** be considered part of the parenting plan. These are additional information for use by the parents but should **not** be attached to the plan when submitted to the court.

The option of using a parenting coordinator to resolve disputes is reserved for those high-conflict, litigious cases that require repeated court intervention. The parents will be responsible for the costs and expenses of the parenting coordinator, if one is used or appointed by the Court.

This model plan was developed by a Task Force to help you in implementing the new law, but it should be considered a living document. If you have suggestions for improvement of the model plan, please send them to the State Bar Association of North Dakota at 255-1404, or bill@sband.org.