



The following checklist can be helpful to clients facing custody as a guide to the decisions that need to be made in the settlement process. Please review this checklist and mark whichever items apply to you and your case. If you like, you can add notes to these items.

### **DECISIONS REGARDING CHILDREN**

#### **Parenting options**

- Sole custody and decision making by one parent
- Joint decision making but residence primarily with one parent
- Split residence and decision making
- Which decisions need mutual consent or discussion?

#### **Geographic restrictions**

- Foreign travel
- Relocation with the children

#### **Access to records**

- Doctors, dentists, etc.
- Schools and teachers

#### **Notification**

- Addresses and phone numbers
- Illnesses and accidents
- Children's whereabouts

#### **Access and parenting time**

- Weekdays
- Weekends
- Holidays and long weekends
- School recesses
- Summer vacations
- Birthdays—parents' and children's

- Other occasions
- Telephone calls
- Notice of changes
- Expenses of missed times
- Grandparenting time

## **SUPPORT DECISIONS**

### **Child support**

- Amount
- Date of payment
- Cost-of-living adjustments
- Amount of reduction on the emancipation of each child
- Right to claim dependency exemption (and related to child tax credit)

### **Definition of emancipation**

- Age
- College
- Marriage
- Living away from home
- Employment

### **Life insurance**

- Amount
- Cost-of-living adjustment
- Type
- Beneficiary
- Trustee for children

- Health insurance/COBRA rights**

### **Extra expenses**

- College or private school tuition
- Child care costs
- Summer camp/other activities
- Extracurricular activities

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**Medical**

- Insurance coverage
- Procedures for claims filing and reimbursement
- Payment for uncovered expenses
- Decision on elective procedures, including orthodontia
- Dental, prescription, eyeglasses, psychotherapy, etc.

**Tax returns**

- Income Tax Exemptions & the Minor Children