

Parenting Plan



TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: Kankakee County
First Edition, 2017

Parenting Plan

Have this ready for the Case Management Date

A Parenting Plan describes how each parent will be responsible for their children's needs after the divorce. In Illinois, each parent is required by law to submit a Parenting Plan.

You will need to know **how you want to split parenting time and how you want to split decision-making responsibilities.**

Parenting time means time parents spend with their kids.

Decision-making responsibilities are how parents will make significant decisions about a child's health, schooling, extra-curricular activities, and religion. These four areas can be divided up in different ways.

You and your spouse can agree to **joint decision-making** for any or all of the four areas. This means you and your spouse will always discuss and reach agreements on those issues. In the Parenting Plan, you will need to write in detail how you plan to discuss each area with your spouse.

Full decision-making is also an option. The spouse with full decision-making would have the right to make the final decision, regardless of whether it was discussed with the other spouse.

Your plan has to be **enforceable** – it needs to explain how situations will be decided if you and your spouse cannot agree. Therefore, make it as detailed as you can.

If you and your spouse find you cannot agree on certain issues, your judge will **order mediation**. This means that the court chooses a qualified individual (usually a lawyer) that you and your spouse must see to try to resolve the issues. The divorce case is paused while you complete mediation.

Because you agree on child care issues, you and your spouse can submit a Joint Parenting Plan together if you wish. When it is completed, you will both have to sign it. See instructions below on how to find the Parenting Plan form online.

Parenting Plan – ILAO

Quick link: <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/parenting-plan>

Step 1.

Go to <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org>

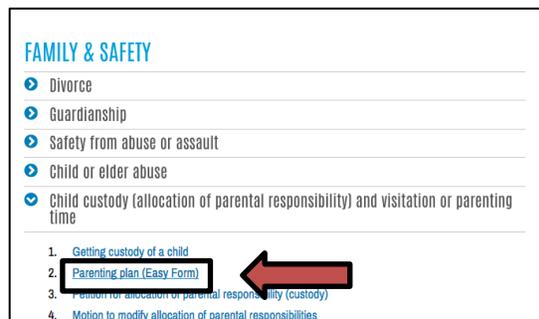
Step 2.

1. Move the mouse over the **Legal Information** section at the top of the page.
2. In the drop-down options, click on **Family & Safety**.



Step 3.

1. You are now on the **Family & Safety** page.
2. In the list of topics, click **Child custody (allocation of parental responsibilities)** to open more options.
3. Click **Parenting Plan (Easy form)**.



Step 5.

Take a minute to read the instructions on the screen.

Notice that you will not be able to stop and save your work.

When you are ready, click *Begin: Parenting Plan program*.

When the Parenting Plan is completed, **print** a copy for the judge and copies for you and your spouse.

Bring these copies to the Case Management date.