

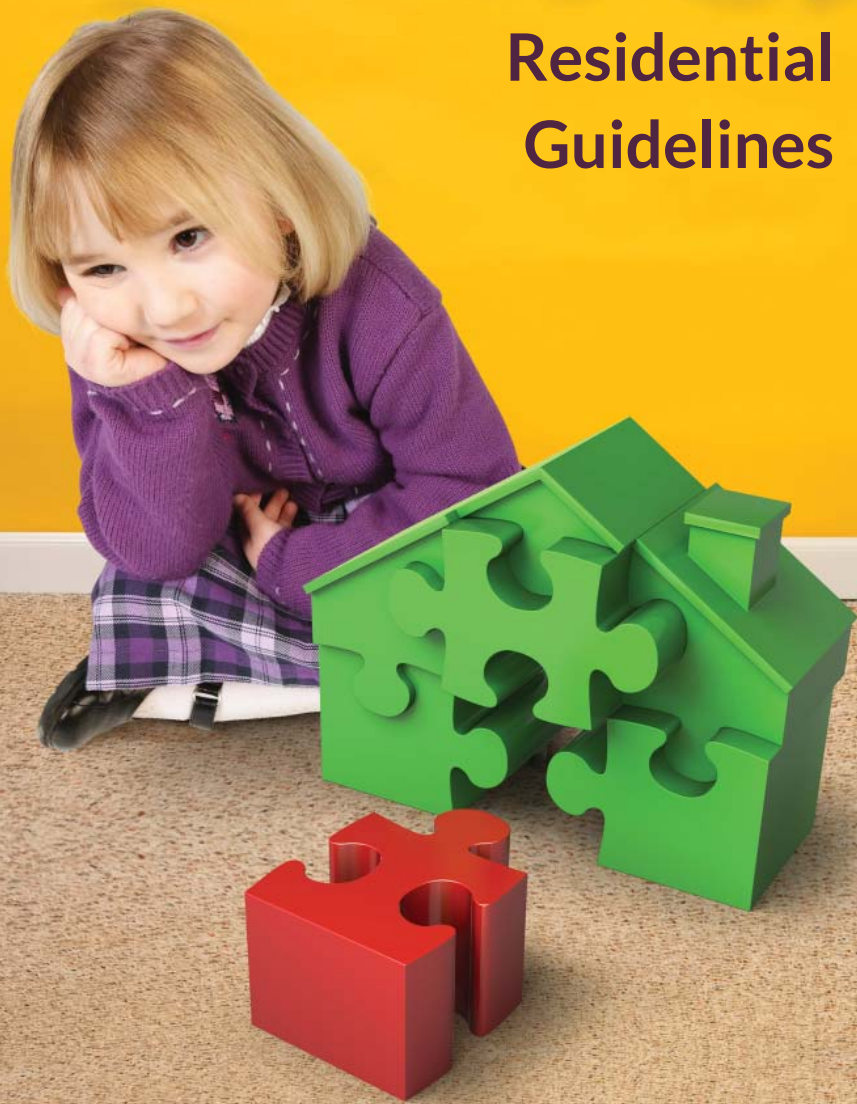
AMERICAN ACADEMY

AAML

OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS

Child centered

**Residential
Guidelines**





contents

Introduction	1	2
General Principles for Parenting Plans		2
Family Assessment		3
Developmental Plans		
Transitions, Review, Schedules.....	5	4
0-9 months.....		6
9-24 months.....		7
24 months – 3 years of age.....		8
Preschoolers		9
Early school-aged children.....		10
Later school-aged children.....		11
Adolescents		12
Holiday, Vacations and School Breaks		13
Long Distance Parenting		
Special Considerations.....		14
Breast Feeding		15
Special Needs		16
Visitation Resistance.....		17
Never Married Parents.....		18
Domestic Violence		19
Substance Abuse/Mental Illness		20
Incarcerated Parents.....		21
Same Sex Parenting		22
Military Parenting.....		23
Glossary.....		24
Appendix		
State Statutes Regarding Custody		25
Bibliography.....		25



Introduction



The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, under the direction of President Alton Abramowitz, created a committee charged with developing Child Centered Residential Guidelines to fill the void created by the current research regarding developmentally and psychologically appropriate parenting plans for children whose parents do not live together contradicting the generally accepted traditional alternating weekend visitation guideline followed by many states and courts throughout the country. As most states provide “custody” is to be determined upon a “best interests” standard, it was also the hope of President Abramowitz to provide a national model, consistent with the aspirations of the Academy, to assist parents, judges, lawyers, mediators and parent educators in drafting child-centered residential guidelines, focusing on best interests, and as a result reducing parental conflict as it relates to time sharing of children.

The Guidelines are intended to provide research based ideas and solutions in making decisions regarding parenting time when parents do not live together. They provide developmental guidance for parents and those charged with creating parenting plans to assist in making child-friendly agreements, presenting cogent proposals to the Court or fashioning developmentally appropriate orders. Parents, attorneys and judges as well as mental health providers, mediators and therapists may find these Guidelines useful in resolving parenting time disputes and avoiding

Introduction

disagreements about how much time the child should spend with each parent. At the same time, these Guidelines do not prohibit parents, lawyers, mediators and judges from creating parenting time plans that differ from the sample plans contained here.

The Residential provisions for a child are only one of the many aspects in a Child Centered Parenting Plan. Parenting Plan requirements differ from state to state, and even from county to county in the same state. Some common provisions in a parenting plan include definitions of legal custody or decision making, periodic review of the plan, communication between the parents, and exchange/transportation of the child in addition to the time sharing of the child. The Guidelines contained herein only address the residential provisions of such a plan.



*One of the most difficult challenges
for **PARENTS** at the time of separation
is deciding how they will
divide **responsibility** for and time with
their **children**.*

Child Centered

Residential Guidelines



Contents

Introduction	1
General Principles for Parenting Plans	2
Family Assessment	3
Developmental Plans	
● Transitions, Review, Schedules	4
● 0-9 months.....	5
● 9-24 months	6
● 24 months – 3 years of age	7
● Preschoolers	8
● Early school-aged children.....	9
● Later school-aged children.....	10
● Adolescents	11
Holiday, Vacations and School Breaks	12
Long Distance Parenting.....	13
Special Considerations	
● Breast Feeding.....	14
● Special Needs.....	15
● Visitation Resistance	16
● Never Married Parents	17
● Domestic Violence.....	18
● Substance Abuse/Mental Illness.....	19
● Incarcerated Parents	20
● Same Sex Parenting.....	21
● Military Parenting	22
Glossary.....	23
Appendix	
● State Statutes Regarding Custody.....	24
● Bibliography	25



One of the most difficult challenges for parents at the time of separation is deciding how they will divide responsibility for and time with their children.

Introduction

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, under the direction of President Alton Abramowitz, created a committee charged with developing Child Centered Residential Guidelines to fill the void created by the current research regarding developmentally and psychologically appropriate parenting plans for children whose parents do not live together contradicting the generally accepted traditional alternating weekend visitation guideline followed by many states and courts throughout the country. As most states provide “custody” is to be determined upon a “best interests” standard, it was also the hope of President Abramowitz to provide a national model, consistent with the aspirations of the Academy, to assist parents, judges, lawyers, mediators and parent educators in drafting child-centered residential guidelines, focusing on best interests, and as a result reducing parental conflict as it relates to time sharing of children.

The Guidelines are intended to provide research based ideas and solutions in making decisions regarding parenting time when parents do not live together. They provide developmental guidance for parents and those charged with creating parenting plans to assist in making child-friendly agreements, presenting cogent proposals to the Court or fashioning developmentally appropriate orders. Parents, attorneys and judges as well as mental health providers, mediators and therapists may find these Guidelines useful in resolving parenting time disputes and avoiding disagreements about how much time the child should spend with each parent. At the same time, these Guidelines do not prohibit parents, lawyers, mediators and judges from creating parenting

time plans that differ from the sample plans contained here.

The Residential provisions for a child are only one of the many aspects in a Child Centered Parenting Plan. Parenting Plan requirements differ from state to state, and even from county to county in the same state. Some common provisions in a parenting plan include definitions of legal custody or decision making, periodic review of the plan, communication between the parents, and exchange/transportation of the child in addition to the time sharing of the child. The Guidelines contained herein only address the residential provisions of such a plan.

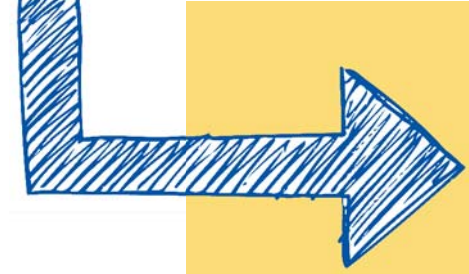


Child Centered

Residential Guidelines



Contents



- 1 Introduction
- 2 General Principles for Parenting Plans
- 3 Family Assessment

Developmental Plans

- 4 Transitions, Review, Schedules
 - 5 0-9 months
 - 6 9-24 months
 - 7 24 months – 3 years of age
 - 8 Preschoolers
 - 9 Early school-aged children
 - 10 Later school-aged children
 - 11 Adolescents
-
- 12 Holiday, Vacations and School Breaks
 - 13 Long Distance Parenting

Special Considerations

- 13 Breast Feeding
- 14 Special Needs
- 15 Visitation Resistance
- 16 Never Married Parents
- 17 Domestic Violence
- 18 Substance Abuse/Mental Illness
- 19 Incarcerated Parents
- 20 Same Sex Parenting
- 21 Military Parenting

22 Glossary

Appendix

- 24 State Statutes Regarding Custody
- 25 Bibliography





Introduction

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, under the direction of President Alton Abramowitz, created a committee charged with developing Child Centered Residential Guidelines to fill the void created by the current research regarding developmentally and psychologically appropriate parenting plans for children whose parents do not live together contradicting the generally accepted traditional alternating weekend visitation guideline followed by many states and courts throughout the country. As most states provide “custody” is to be determined upon a “best interests” standard, it was also the hope of President Abramowitz to provide a national model, consistent with the aspirations of the Academy, to assist parents, judges, lawyers, mediators and parent educators in drafting child-centered residential guidelines, focusing on best interests, and as a result reducing parental conflict as it relates to time sharing of children.

The Guidelines are intended to provide research based ideas and solutions in making decisions regarding parenting time when parents do not live together. They provide developmental guidance for parents and those charged with creating parenting plans to assist in making child-friendly agreements, presenting cogent proposals to the Court or fashioning developmentally appropriate orders. Parents, attorneys and judges as well as mental health providers, mediators and therapists may find these Guidelines useful in resolving parenting time disputes and avoiding disagreements about how much time the child should spend with

Introduction

each parent. At the same time, these Guidelines do not prohibit parents, lawyers, mediators and judges from creating parenting time plans that differ from the sample plans contained here.

The Residential provisions for a child are only one of the many aspects in a Child Centered Parenting Plan. Parenting Plan requirements differ from state to state, and even from county to county in the same state. Some common provisions in a parenting plan include definitions of legal custody or decision making, periodic review of the plan, communication between the parents, and exchange/transportation of the child in addition to the time sharing of the child. The Guidelines contained herein only address the residential provisions of such a plan.

One of the most difficult challenges for parents at the time of separation is deciding how they will divide responsibility for and time with their children.

