

Parenting Plans (Part 5): We Agree on a Parenting Plan. Now What?

I'm here to help you create a parenting plan. This series has all the information you need to navigate this court process smoothly.

Let's get started.

In this video, we'll cover what happens when parties agree on a comprehensive parenting plan and there are no custody-related issues for the court to decide. We'll go over when to notify the court, questions the court may ask, and how an agreement becomes a court order.

By the way, congratulations on reaching an agreement!

CHAPTER HEADING: NOTIFY THE COURT

Now it's time to notify the court that you have agreed on a plan. You may file it with the court or present it at your next appearance. Be prepared for the court to review the agreement and ask each of you whether you believe it is in the best interest of your children. You might want to review the "best interest" factors in Part 4 of this series. The court may also confirm that you voluntarily entered the agreement.

CHAPTER HEADING: QUESTIONS

The court may ask you about specific provisions in your parenting plan. Expect to explain why it is in your child's best interest. The court might ask why you didn't address a particular issue. The reason may be because it doesn't apply to your family. Be prepared to explain that.

The court might also ask you to confirm that there are no outstanding issues for it to decide.

CHAPTER HEADING: THE ORDER

After the review and the questions, there's only one thing left for the court to do: Decide if it agrees that your plan is in the best interest of your child. If the court agrees, it will enter an order incorporating the terms and provisions of your agreement.

CHAPTER HEADING: LET'S REVIEW

Once you and the other party or parties reach an agreement, notify the court. Be prepared to answer questions about your parenting plan and how it is in the best interest of your child. If the court agrees, your plan will become part of a custody order.

Again, congratulations on reaching an agreement.