

v.

: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
: COUNTY, PA
:
: CIVIL ACTION - LAW
:
: IN CUSTODY
: NO.

ORDER

AND NOW, this 24th day of January, 2024, upon consideration of the foregoing Petition for Special Relief for Appointment of Parenting Coordinator and any response thereto, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED as follows:

1. APPOINTMENT AND TERM:

Pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.11-1, Lise A. Fisher, Esquire is appointed as the parties' parenting coordinator for a term of twelve (12) months.

Legal counsel for the parties or either party, if unrepresented, shall provide copies of all orders, pleadings, and custody evaluations in this case to the parenting coordinator within ten (10) days of the date of this order.

2. ROLE OF THE PARENTING COORDINATOR:

- (a) The parenting coordinator shall attempt to resolve issues arising out of the custody order by facilitating an agreement between the parties and, if unable to reach an agreement, recommend a resolution to the court.
- (b) The parenting coordinator shall not function as the attorney, advocate, counselor, or psychotherapist for the parties, the parties' children, or family. However, the parenting coordinator is permitted and encouraged to facilitate communication and agreement between the parties when conflicts arise and shall always act in a manner conducive to the best interests of the children.

3. PARENTING COORDINATOR'S SCOPE OF AUTHORITY:

To implement the custodial arrangement set forth in the custody order and resolve related parenting issues about which the parties cannot agree, the parenting coordinator is authorized to recommend resolutions to the court about issues that include, but are not limited to:

- (a) places and conditions for transitions between households;
- (b) temporary variation from the schedule for a special event or particular circumstance;
- (c) school issues, apart from school selection;
- (d) the children's participation in recreation, enrichment, and extracurricular activities, including travel;
- (e) child-care arrangements;
- (f) clothing, equipment, toys, and personal possessions of the children;
- (g) information exchanges (e.g., school, health, social) and communication with or about the children;
- (h) coordination of existing or court-ordered services for the children (e.g., psychological testing, alcohol or drug monitoring/testing, psychotherapy, anger management);
- (i) behavioral management of the children; and
- (j) other related custody issues that the parties mutually have agreed in writing to submit to the parenting coordinator, which are not excluded in Paragraph 4.

4. EXCLUSIONS FROM PARENTING COORDINATOR'S AUTHORITY:

- (a) The following specific issues are excluded from the parenting coordinator's scope of authority:
 - (1) a change in legal custody as set forth in the custody order;
 - (2) a change in primary physical custody set forth in the custody order;
 - (3) other than as set forth in Paragraph 3(b), a change in the court-ordered custody schedule that reduces or expands the children's

- time with a party;
 - (4) a change in the residence (relocation) of the children;
 - (5) determination of financial issues, other than allocation of the parenting coordinator's fees as set forth in Pa.R.C.P. 1915.11-1(g)(1);
 - (6) major decisions affecting the health, education, or religion of the children; and
 - (7) Other:
- (b) Unless the parties consent, the parenting coordinator shall not contact collateral sources or speak with the children. The parties shall execute releases, as necessary, authorizing the parenting coordinator to communicate with the appropriate individuals. Any communication with the collateral sources or children shall be limited to the issue(s) currently before the parenting coordinator.

5. COMMUNICATIONS:

- (a) The parenting coordinator shall determine the protocol of all communications, interviews, and sessions, including who shall attend the sessions (including the children), and whether the sessions will be conducted in person or by other means. The protocols should include measures addressing the safety of all participants.
- (b) Communication between the parties or their attorneys and the parenting coordinator is not confidential.
- (c) The parties and their attorneys shall have the right to receive, but not initiate, oral ex parte communication with the parenting coordinator. The parenting coordinator shall promptly advise the other party or the other party's attorney of the communication. A party or a party's attorney may communicate in writing with the parenting coordinator but shall contemporaneously send a copy of the written communication to the other party or the other party's attorney. Documents, recordings, or other material that one party gives to the

parenting coordinator must be promptly made available to the other party or the other party's attorney for inspection and copying.

- (d) Communication between the parenting coordinator and the court shall be in writing and copies of the written communication shall be sent contemporaneously to the parties or the parties' attorneys.
- (e) A party cannot compel the testimony of a parenting coordinator without an order of court.

6. PARENTING COORDINATION PROCESS:

- (a) The parenting coordinator shall provide to the parties notice and an opportunity to be heard on the issues.
- (b) The parenting coordinator's recommendation shall be in writing on the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator form set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.23 and sent to the court for review within two days after hearing from the parties on the issues. The parenting coordinator shall serve a copy of the Summary and Recommendation on the parties or the parties' attorneys.
- (c) A party objecting to the recommendation shall file a petition for a record hearing before the court within five days of service of the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator form. The petition must specifically state the issues to be reviewed and include a demand for a record hearing. A copy of the recommendation shall be attached to the petition. In accordance with Pa.R.C.P. No. 440, the objecting party shall serve the petition upon the other party or the party's attorney and the parenting coordinator.

7. RECORD HEARING:

- (a) If the parties do not file an objection within five days of service of the parenting coordinator's recommendation, the court shall:

- (1) approve the recommendation;
 - (2) approve the recommendation in part and conduct a record hearing on issues not approved;
 - (3) remand the recommendation to the parenting coordinator for more specific information; or
 - (4) not approve the recommendation and conduct a record hearing on the issues.
- (b) As soon as practical, the court shall conduct a record hearing on the issues specifically set forth in the petition. The court shall render a decision within the time set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.4(d).
- (c) If a party makes a timely objection, the recommendation shall become an interim order of court pending further disposition by the court.

8. ALLOCATION OF FEES:

- (a) The parties will share the obligation to pay the fees of the parenting coordinator as follows: 50% , 50% . Fees may be reallocated by the court or the parenting coordinator if a party has disproportionately caused the need for the services of the parenting coordinator.
- (b) The judicial district's established hourly rate for parenting coordinators shall be set forth in a separate written agreement entered into between the parties and the parenting coordinator.
- (c) The parties will pay a joint retainer to the parenting coordinator in the percentages set forth above in an amount to be set forth in a separate agreement between the parties and the parenting coordinator. After each session, or at least once monthly, the parenting coordinator shall provide the parties with an invoice of charges incurred. The retainer may be replenished as services are rendered. Funds remaining at the conclusion of the parenting coordinator's appointment shall be returned to the parties.

9. **TERMINATION/WITHDRAWAL OF PARENTING COORDINATOR:**

- (a) The parties may not terminate the parenting coordinator's services without court approval.
- (b) A party seeking the termination of the parenting coordinator's services shall serve the other party or the party's attorney and parenting coordinator with a copy of the petition for termination.
- (c) If the parenting coordinator seeks to withdraw from service in a case, the parenting coordinator shall petition the court and provide a copy of the petition to the parties or the parties' attorneys.

10. **APPEAL:**

If there is an appeal of the underlying custody order or this order, then this order shall be stayed during the pendency of the appeal.

BY THE COURT:

ADB. men
J.

Where can I find a list of approved parenting coordinators?

Bucks County

- Direct download of the current roster:
<https://www.buckscounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2346>
- Or, scroll to bottom of this page under “Resources” heading:
<https://www.buckscounty.gov/591/Family-Masters>

Chester County

- <https://www.chesco.org/4246/Parenting-Coordinators>

Delaware County

- Not published online yet – see next page for current list, and check for regular updates at <https://delcopa.gov/ojs/forms.html>

Montgomery County

- <https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/3405/Parenting-Coordinators>

Philadelphia

- <https://www.courts.phila.gov/common-pleas/family/dr/>
 - Scroll down to “Custody and Divorce Units” – click to expand – scroll down to list

Delaware County

- Steven Koense, Esq.
- Kristin A. Molavoque, Esq.
- Emily Vener-Giszter, Esq.
- Rochelle Bobman, Esq.
- Lisa M. Shapson, Esq.
- Lise A. Fisher, Esq.
- Susan E. Murray, Esq.
- Tiffany A. Shoemaker, Esq.
- Kristin M. Rushing, Esq.
- Kathleen A. O'Connor, Esq.

Current as of 2/1/24



February 1, 2023

Parenting Coordinator Agreement

We, _____ and _____ have entered into an agreement with Lisa Shapson, Esquire to serve as a Parenting Coordinator for us and our child(ren). The Parenting Coordinator (herein referred to as "PC") shall function as a Mediator and Arbitrator of disagreements that arise when our mutual consent is required. We agree that this agreement shall serve as a binding contract.

We understand that Parenting Coordination is a process of alternative dispute resolution, which begins as assisted negotiations and becomes arbitration in which the PC makes a binding decision if we are unable to resolve our disputes in the mediation process.

We understand that it is in our child(ren's) best interests when parents do not engage in conflict. To that end, we shall attempt to resolve our issues in a mutually satisfactory manner between ourselves whenever possible. If issues cannot be resolved between us, either one of us may request assistance of the PC, who shall first engage in a process to help us resolve disputes. If efforts to mediate and negotiate a resolution of an issue are unsuccessful, the PC, after we have each been given an opportunity to be heard, shall make a decision. The decision remains binding, and may become an interim order, unless or until otherwise ordered by the court.

Authority of the Parent Coordinator:

To implement the custodial arrangements and provisions set forth in the custody order and resolve related parenting issues about which we cannot agree, we understand that the PC is authorized to make decisions and recommend resolutions to the court about issues which include, but are not limited to:

1. Places and conditions for transitions between households;
2. Temporary variation from the schedule for a special event or particular circumstance;
3. School issues, apart from school selection;
4. The child(ren)'s participation in recreation, enrichment and extracurricular activities, including travel;
5. Child-care arrangements;
6. The child(ren)'s clothing, equipment, toys, and personal possessions;
7. Information (e.g. school, health, social) and communication with or about the child(ren);
8. Coordination of existing or court-ordered services for the child(ren) (e.g. psychological testing, drug or alcohol monitoring and/or testing, anger management counseling, psychotherapy);

VALUING ALL FAMILIES

9. Behavioral management of the child(ren); and
10. Other related custody issues that we agree to submit to the PC, which issues and request shall be confirmed in writing, and which are not specifically excluded by the applicable Rule of Civil Procedure and this Agreement.

The following issues are excluded from the PC's scope of authority:

1. A change of legal custody;
2. A change in primary custody;
3. Other than set forth in subparagraph (2) of the preceding paragraph of this Agreement, a change in the court-ordered custody schedule that reduces or expands the child(ren)'s time with a parent;
4. A change in the residence (relocation) of the child(ren);
5. A determination of financial issues (other than allocation of the PC's fees)
6. Major decisions affecting the health, education, or religion of the children; and
7. Other issues as may be set forth by the Judge in the order appointing the PC.

Appointments/Conferences with the Parent Coordinator:

Appointments or telephone calls with the PC may be scheduled at the request of either parent or of the PC. All parties agree to make a good faith effort to be available when contacts are requested.

Communications by/to the Parent Coordinator:

A party or a party's counsel may communicate in writing (which includes e-mail) with the PC; a copy of such written communication shall be sent contemporaneously to the other party or the other party's counsel, as applicable. Documents and other material given by a party to the PC shall be promptly made available to the other party (or counsel) for inspection and copying.

Each party and their counsel may receive verbal *ex parte* communications from the PC; that is communications between the PC and one of the parents and/or his/her counsel. However, an individual parent may not initiate *ex parte* communications with the PC, that is private communications with the PC without copying the other parent on the communication.

The PC's work with the family is not confidential. She may share information between the parties. Information that the PC relies on may be set forth in her decision. Both parties understand and agree that the PC may be obligated to disclose, and may disclose in any event, the following information: a) reasonable suspicion a child may be subject to maltreatment or neglect, b) either of the parties or another person may be subject to bodily harm, or c) if she learns that either of the parties may intent to commit a felony.

If the PC believes that speaking to the child(ren) and/or third parties (e.g. child, teachers, medical care providers, caregivers, or attorneys) will be helpful in making a decision, the PC will discuss the issue with the parties, and the parties may consent to that request, and that their consent may not be unreasonably withheld. Such communication with the child(ren) and/or third parties shall be limited to the issue(s)

then-before the PC. The parties also agree that the PC may review any documents that, in her opinion, would be helpful to the decision-making process. We shall each sign any necessary authorizations for the PC to speak with the child(ren) and/or any third parties, and for the release of the requested documentation.

Testimony of the Parent Coordinator:

We understand that neither party can compel the testimony of the PC without an order of court. In the event that it is necessary and/or required that the PC be deposed and/or testify in court, the parties shall be equally (unless otherwise ordered by the court) responsible for the payment of the PC's time. Such payment shall be determined by the PC at the time, but shall not be less than \$5,000; payment shall be made in full at least three business days prior to the deposition, conference, or court appearance requiring the PC's testimony.

Termination of the Parent Coordinator:

The Court Order appointing the PC provided for a six-month term. Accordingly, The PC's role shall be automatically terminated six months from the date of this Agreement unless the parties' mutually agree otherwise. If both parties wish to terminate the PC prior to the expiration of the six-month term, the parties may do so by written stipulation that shall be submitted to the Court for approval. If one party wishes to terminate the PC prior to the expiration of the six-month term and the other party does not agree, an order of court shall be required to remove the PC.

Fee Arrangements/Advance Fee:

We agree to pay the PC at the rate of \$300.00 per hour. Specifically mother will pay 50% and father will pay 50% of all charges as directed by the court and/or our private agreement appointing Lisa Shapson as our PC. The PC shall charge for all time spent working on our matter including, without limitation, for the review of documents; meeting with and/or speaking to us, the children, and/or third parties, including the court and counsel; participating in interviews and telephone conferences; for letters and e-mails, for reviewing mail and electronic (e-mail) communications with our attorneys, with us or third parties; and for the deliberation, determination, and issuance of decisions.

We understand that the PC will bill in tenths of one hour (i.e., six minute intervals). Although the PC strives never to overbill, we understand that a minimum of 0.1 (six minutes) will be charged for any activity that takes six minutes or less.

Upon the signing of this contract, the PC shall be paid an advance fee of \$5,000 with each party paying their percentage share set forth herein. Monthly, the PC shall provide an itemized statement of account, advising the fees and costs deducted from the advanced fee. When the advance fee falls below \$500.00, the PC may request an additional amount to replenish the advance fee within twenty (20) days of the request. If the replenishment amount is not paid within the requested time period, the PC's services may be suspended and, if so, the PC shall be permitted to advise the court as to the reason for the suspension of services. At the end of the parent coordination process, any amount remaining of the advanced fees, shall be returned to the parties in proportion to which those fees were initially paid.

We understand that if a meeting with the PC is cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice, the PC has the discretion to charge a fee to us commensurate with the time allotted for the

cancelled meeting. If one of us fails to show up for a scheduled appointment, that person shall be responsible for the entire cost of the scheduled time.

The PC reserves the right to assess costs disproportionately if, in her sole discretion, either of us acts unreasonably or not in good faith, creates unnecessary problems in the resolution of an issue, or in other ways in unnecessarily utilizing a disproportionate amount of the PC's time. The PC shall inform us of her intent in writing, prior to any assessment of disproportionate costs.

Withdrawal of the PC:

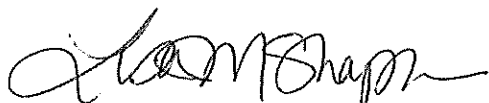
If it is necessary for the PC to withdraw from the case due to the actions or inactions of a party, either directly or indirectly, the PC shall so petition the court. The party causing such a conflict or need for the PC to withdraw from the case shall be responsible to the PC for the PC's fees and costs related to the petition to withdraw including, without limitation, for the preparation and filing of the petition, for the telephone conference with counsel and/or the court, and for court conferences and appearances. The PC shall provide twenty (20) days' written notice to the parties and counsel if she believes it necessary to withdraw from the case.

This agreement cannot cover all of the particulars that may arise in every situation. The parties agree that the PC may need to establish new rules and guidelines to fit the unique relationship. The fundamental principles governing all rules and guidelines are a) conflict for the parties will be minimized and b) decisions will be made in the best interest of the child(ren).

By our signatures below we each confirm and attest that we have read the above agreement and have each had the opportunity to discuss it with our respective attorneys (and or other person or counsel if not represented). We each enter into this agreement with the full understanding that if we cannot resolve conflicts between ourselves, Lisa Shapson, will have the right to make decisions, as set forth in this agreement, that will affect us and our child(ren).

Date: _____

Date: _____



Date: February 1, 2023

LISA M. SHAPSON, ESQUIRE
Parent Coordinator

v. : IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
: COUNTY, PA
:
: CIVIL ACTION - LAW
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: CUSTODY
: NO.

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION OF
THE PARENTING COORDINATOR**

The undersigned, Lisa M. Shapson, Esquire, the duly appointed Parenting Coordinator in the above-captioned matter, pursuant to Order of Court dated March 17, 2021, after submission of the issues described below via email from the parties, as well as one joint session with the parties, and after providing the parties with an opportunity to be heard on the issues, the parenting coordinator sets forth the following:

Summary of the Issues Presented

1. **Description of the Issues:**

- a. Father requested that the issue of lack of communication and co-parenting specifically as it pertains to William’s therapist Dr. be addressed by the parenting coordinator.
- b. Father requested that the issue of lack of response time from Mother to emails and text messages sent through Our Family Wizard (“OFW”) be addressed by the parenting coordinator.
- c. Father requested that the issue of whether the children would be permitted to miss school in September or October, 2022 to attend a family trip to Disney World for 5 days and 4 nights be addressed by the parenting coordinator.

- d. Mother requested that the issue of the children attending extra-curricular activities that they have committed to but which occasionally occur during Father's custodial time be addressed by the parenting coordinator.
- e. Mother requested that the issue of corporal punishment be addressed (if not limited by on August 2021 Court Order) be addressed by the parenting coordinator.

2. The Respective Parties' Positions on the Issues:

- a. Father provided the parenting coordinator with email exchanges between the parties regarding whether or not William's therapy sessions with Dr. [redacted] should go from weekly sessions to something less frequent. The email exchanges span the time frame of November 16, 2021 to November 29, 2021. Per the emails, Mother reported that William had been given her a hard time each week when he had to go to therapy and asked to go less frequently. Mother reported to Father that she had suggested that William attend every other week but that she and Father needed to discuss that first before it could happen. Father's emails report that William called him directly and asked if he could attend therapy less frequently. This angered Father because communications and decisions regarding William's need for therapy and how frequent they need to be should not involve the child. Mother's email responses seemed to indicate that regardless of what anyone wanted the therapist's upcoming availability was going to make the actual therapy sessions occur less frequently than weekly. The second set of email exchanges about therapy sessions that Father provided span the time frame of February 3, 2022 to February 14, 2022 in which Father reiterated the fact that the appointments still seem to be less frequent

than weekly even though there was no agreement to change the frequency of the sessions and also reiterating the fact that the actual appointment dates were not being updated quickly enough on the parties' OFW calendar. Mother did not provide any documentation on this issue but did state in session with the parenting coordinator that William had two therapy sessions in February, 2022 (one on Tuesday, February 1st and one on Tuesday, February 22nd) and that his next session was scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

- b. Father provided the email exchanges that span the time frame of February 2, 2022 through February 14, 2022 as evidence that William's therapy sessions were not being calendared on OFW. Mother did not provide any documentation as to this issue other than to state that she frequently forgets to update not only therapy appointments but all medical appointments on OFW despite the fact that she schedules the next therapy appointment at the end of each therapy session.
- c. Father provided an email exchange that starts on January 31, 2022 and states that he just learned that he had won a 5 day, 4 night trip to Disney World that needs to be taken in either September or October of this year and their preferred dates of travel need to be given to Disney World by February 3, 2022. Father also provided email exchanges between the parties dated February 2, 2022 and an email from Father to Mother dated February 3, 2022. Father's position is that the children should be able to miss school for this unexpected family trip to Disney World. Mother's position is that they should not miss school because they have missed so much school because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- d. Mother provided email exchanges that span the time period of January 5, 2022 through February 18, 2022 regarding two different sports teams that each of the boys wished to join. Specifically, William wanted to join the [REDACTED] flag football league that starts in March and that only has games on Sundays starting Sunday, March 20, 2022. At the time of the meeting with the undersigned, Mother was not clear as to how long the season would run or when the last game was going to be. Additionally, Joey wanted to join a baseball team known as the [REDACTED]. Father's position on this issue is two-fold: 1) There is no communication or discussion about signing the boys up for extra-curricular activities ahead of time. Father simply finds out about activities after they are registered for them and 2) Father travels a lot and makes plans for his custodial weekends and cannot be expected to give up or shorten those plans to accommodate the children's extra-curricular activity schedule(s). Father went further to say that it is not fair to him to have to travel an hour to the activity, spend two hours at the activity and have to travel an hour back to his house during his custodial weekend. Mother's position is that while she has no problem if they miss an activity to attend a special one time event with Father the truth of the matter is that extra-curricular activities happen every day and every weekend regardless of who has custody and it is not fair to the coach, the team, and to their individual child to commit to something if they cannot plan on attending all of the practices and games.
- e. Mother requested that the issue of the use of corporal punishment be addressed by the parenting coordinator. During the session with the undersigned, Mother expressed concern that Father was still using corporal

punishment as a means of discipline in violation of their February 11, 2021 order. Father indicated that he had not used corporal punishment since the order was entered. After the live session with the parenting coordinator, Mother provided the February 11, 2021 order to the undersigned.

RECOMMENDATION

- a. Father's request that the issue of lack of communication and co-parenting specifically as it pertains to William's therapist Dr. _____ be addressed by the parenting coordinator. The undersigned agrees with Father that the decision to lessen the frequency of William's therapy sessions to something less than weekly was a decision that, per the terms of the parties' July 7, 2020 custody order at Provisions 1 and 7, should have been made mutually by the parties and quite frankly with input from Dr. _____ as well. Although it is not exactly clear as to when William's therapy sessions started occurring less than weekly, the email exchanges provided from the end of November, 2021 seemed to indicate that they were going to start to be less than weekly because of Dr. _____'s availability and that they seem to be occurring once every three weeks currently. Despite this unilateral change to once every three weeks, both parties seem to agree that William's behavior since November, 2021 when he stopped attending session weekly seems to have improved greatly although he is still "not of the woods" completely as he occasionally gets in trouble and misses parts of his recess at school. **Therefore, the Parenting Coordinator recommends that the parties have a joint meeting with Dr. _____ after the March 15, 2022 therapy session so that they can be updated by Dr. _____ on William's progress and so that they can have more information from him so**

that they can mutually agree as to whether or not the sessions should occur more frequently than every three weeks.

- b. Father's request that the issue of lack of response time from Mother to emails and text messages sent through Our Family Wizard ("OFW") and failing to calendar events in OFW shall now be addressed. Father contends and Mother admits that there is a lack of response from Mother to emails made to her from Father through OFW. Mother indicates that her lack of response is sometimes that she just plain forgets because she sees the alert that there is a new email in OFW during the work day and forgets to check OFW later on in the evening or that she is waiting to find out more information so that she can provide a complete response. The example Mother gave during the session with the parenting coordinator was that she was waiting for confirmation of her family's annual summer trip before agreeing to Father's summer vacation dates for him to take the boys. Additionally, Mother readily admits that she forgets to calendar all types of medical appointments for the boys through the OFW calendar. The undersigned agrees with Father. There is no reason why Mother cannot respond right away that she is waiting for confirmation of additional information before providing a response to Father nor is there any reason why she cannot provide herself with a reminder to update the OFW calendar when she makes appointments for the children. **Therefore, the Parenting Coordinator recommends that Mother set a daily alarm on her cell phone for 10:30 P.M. for the purposes of reminding herself to go into the OFW application and read and respond to any new emails from Father even if the response is simply that she will get back to him in 48 hours once she confirms some additional information on her end. Additionally, this alarm**

will serve as a reminder to Mother to update OFW calendar on days in which she has made an appointment for the boys as well.

- c. Father's request that the children be allowed to travel with him and his family to Disney World in September or October of 2022 even though they will miss some school days shall now be addressed by the Parenting Coordinator. It is acknowledged by the undersigned that the deadline has passed for which Father was required to confirm the amount of people in his travelling party to Disney and that because Mother had said that the boys were not allowed to miss school to go to Disney World, Father selected the days he provided to Disney that occurred over Mother's weekends and when Father and his wife were able to get off from work. However, if Father is allowed to expand the Disney trip to include the parties' two children, and he is allowed to select the dates in either September or October, it is the recommendation of the parenting coordinator that Father select dates which correspond with the Jewish holidays that the boys will have off from school. Specifically, the undersigned reviewed the 2021-2022 School District academic calendar and this year the boys were off from school for two days for Rosh Hashanah and one day for Yom Kippur. In 2022, Rosh Hashanah will occur on Monday, September 26, 2022 and Tuesday, September 27, 2022 and Yom Kippur will occur on October 5, 2022. So, assuming the 2022-2023 academic calendar is substantially similar to the current one, Father should select dates for his trips that include these vacation days from school if possible.
- d. Mother's request that Father should be taking the children to their extra-curricular activities during his custodial time will now be addressed. This is not a new issue for the parties. The issue of Mother advising Father of activities

that she has unilaterally signed them up for and Father refusing to take the children to the activities during his time is not a new issue. In fact, it was an issue that was raised by Father in the Spring, 2021 when the undersigned was first hired because his understanding was that the parties did not have to take the children to extra-curricular activities that occurred during his/her own time if they did not want to. As stated in the May 7, 2021 recommendation, the parenting coordinator agrees with Father that the parties should be consulting one another regarding what happens with the children during the other parent's custodial time. However, Mother did provide email exchanges via OFW that each of the boys showed an interest in a specific sports league that was going to have games and practices on weekends, half of which were his far in advance of the registration deadlines. She registered the children for the leagues so that they would not miss an opportunity but her emails to Father were Mother's way of trying to have a discussion about the leagues and Father's emails and comments in session with the undersigned are clear that he was not going to agree to leagues that occur on his weekends because the Judge told him on the record he did not have to take the boys to their extra-curricular activities during his time. While the undersigned again acknowledges in this recommendation that Judge did state as much per the February 13, 2020 transcript, that sentiment did not get reduced to the parties' July 7, 2020 order. Their July 7, 2020 order only states that neither of them will make unilateral shared legal custody decisions and does not further define shared legal custody decisions to include extra-curricular activities. While the undersigned agrees with Father that Mother should be informing and discussing the children's extra-curricular activities ahead of time with him, the undersigned

disagrees with Father that it is “ok” for the children to miss their activities during his time because he only sees them every other weekend. Father has explained that he goes away every weekend either up to the mountains to his camper to ride ATVs or goes fishing down the shore for the weekend so that when he has the boys they are very rarely home to attend their activities, plus Father’s home is an hour away from their activities so it is not just a two hour baseball game that it is interfering with his time but it is the two hours back/forth in the car that interfere with his time. The undersigned completely disagrees with Father on this issue. Father and Mother are parents and their focus has to be about the children and what is in their best interests. While spending time with each parent and their families is important, participating in extra-curricular activities is also in their best interest. Extra-curricular activities provide a social outlet, an outlet for exercise as well as teaches them time management in terms of getting their homework done on days when they have scheduled activities. The undersigned finds that Mother was not only trying to give Father advanced notice of the activities but was also trying to get his input on the activities because, for at least William’s football league, the games were to occur every Sunday. Further, it is not fair to the parties’ children to commit to a sport that they can only commit to during their Mother’s custodial time. While Father may prefer going away every weekend with the family, the older the parties’ children get the harder it is going to be for them to want to go Father’s if Father is refusing to allow them to participate in their activities even if Father’s alternatives such as riding ATVs would be seen as equally as fun to most people. **Therefore, this Parenting Coordinator’s recommendation on this issue is essentially the same as it was**

in her May 7, 2021 recommendation. The Parenting Coordinator hereby recommends that William be allowed to register for the :

Flag Football League and that Joey shall be allowed to register for the Baseball League. Further, it is recommended that Father be required to make sure that William attends at least one of two Sunday games that occur each month on Father's custodial weekend and that Joey attends at least one baseball game each month that occurs on Father's custodial weekend. Since William's football games do not start until Sunday, March 20, 2022 which is Father's weekend, it is recommended that Father shall insure that William attends his first football game on Sunday, March 20, 2022. Further, for all future activities it is recommended that both parents consult with each regarding the children's extra-curricular activities and/or summer camp during his/her custodial time before signing the children up for the activities and/or camp and that the other parent not unreasonably withhold that consent and that both parents make an effort to insure that the children always attend those activities regardless of whose custodial days the activity falls on. Since this recommendation was essentially ignored and yet problems have persisted, it is also the Parenting Coordinator's recommendation that the parties' attorneys amend their July 7, 2020 Custody Order to include this provision regarding extra-curricular activities since the Order is silent about them.

- e. Mother's request that the Parenting Coordinator address the issue of corporal punishment will now be addressed. It was unclear to the undersigned whether or not the issue of corporal punishment was even an issue. Mother said that the children had reported to her in front of the therapist that Father was

continuing to use corporal punishment when disciplining the children and had put soap in one of their mouths during their custodial visit the weekend of January 22, 2022. Father said that he has not put soap in the boys' mouths since the February 11, 2021 Order was entered and was understandably upset that this was the first time he was learning that the boys had reported the contrary to Mother. The February 11, 2021 Order simply states that Father agreed not to discipline the children by using soap or other substance and that if the parties wish to revisit the issues they can raise it with the Parenting Coordinator. Father has indicated in session that he has kept his agreement not to discipline the children by using methods of corporal punishment therefore it is not clear to the undersigned whether or not corporal punishment is an actual issue or whether the children were trying to get Father in trouble with Mother. **Therefore, the Parenting Coordinator recommends that both parties continue NOT to use methods of corporal punishment when disciplining the children and that if a child reports that such methods of punishment are still being used to one parent that that parent immediately contact the other parent or the Parenting Coordinator to address the issue.**

Within five days of the date set forth below, a party may object to this recommendation by filing a petition with the court and requesting a record hearing before the judge as set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.11-1 (f)(3).

The undersigned parenting coordinator certifies that this Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator has been served on the parties and their attorneys on the date set forth below.

Date: 3/11/2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa M. Shapson", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa M. Shapson, Esquire
Parenting Coordinator

[Rule 1915.11-1. Elimination of Parenting Coordination.

Only judges may make decisions in child custody cases. Masters and hearing officers may make recommendations to the court. Courts shall not appoint any other individual to make decisions or recommendations or alter a custody order in child custody cases. Any order appointing a parenting coordinator shall be deemed vacated on the date this rule becomes effective. Local rules and administrative orders authorizing the appointment of parenting coordinators also shall be deemed vacated on the date this rule becomes effective.]

---The text below replaces the current rule ---

Rule 1915.11-1. Parenting Coordination. If a judicial district implements a parenting coordination program, the court shall maintain a roster of qualified individuals to serve as parenting coordinators and establish the hourly rate at which parenting coordinators shall be compensated. The parenting coordinator shall attempt to resolve issues arising out of the custody order by facilitating an agreement between the parties and, if unable to reach an agreement, recommend a resolution to the court.

(a) Appointment of a Parenting Coordinator.

(1) After a final custody order has been entered, a judge may appoint a parenting coordinator to resolve parenting issues in cases involving repeated or intractable conflict between the parties affecting implementation of the final custody order. A parenting coordinator should not be appointed in every case. The appointment may be made on the motion of a party or the court's motion.

(2) Unless the parties consent and appropriate safety measures are in place to protect the participants, including the parenting coordinator and other third parties, a parenting coordinator shall not be appointed if:

(i) the parties to the custody action have a protection from abuse order in effect;

(ii) the court makes a finding that a party has been the victim of domestic violence perpetrated by a party to the custody action, either during the pendency of the custody action or within 36 months preceding the filing of the custody action; or

(iii) the court makes a finding that a party to the custody action has been the victim of a personal injury crime, as defined in 23

Pa.C.S. § 3103, which was perpetrated by a party to the custody action.

(iv) If a party objects to the appointment of a parenting coordinator based on an allegation that the party has been the victim of domestic violence perpetrated by a party to the custody action, the court shall have a hearing on the issue and may consider abuse occurring beyond the 36 months provided in subdivision (a)(2)(ii).

(3) The appointment of a parenting coordinator shall be for a specified period, which shall not exceed 12 months. A party may petition the court for an extension of the appointment or the court in its discretion may extend the appointment for an additional period.

(4) If the parenting coordinator seeks to withdraw from service in a case, the parenting coordinator shall petition the court and provide a copy of the petition to the parties or the parties' attorneys.

(5) The parenting coordinator shall set forth in a separate written agreement with the parties:

- (i) the amount of any retainer;
- (ii) the hourly rate to be charged;
- (iii) the process for invoices and payment for services;
- (iv) information on the parenting coordination process; and
- (v) provide a signed copy of the agreement to the parties before initiating any services.

Note: The parenting coordinator shall include in the parties' written agreement the hourly rate established by the judicial district.

(b) Qualifications of the Parenting Coordinator.

(1) A parenting coordinator shall be licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as either an attorney or a mental health professional with a master's degree or higher. At a minimum, the parenting coordinator shall have:

- (i) practiced family law for five years or have five years of professional post-degree experience in psychiatry, psychology, counseling, family therapy, or other comparable behavioral or social science field; and

(ii) specialized training by a provider approved or certified by the American Psychological Association, Pennsylvania Psychological Association, American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, or American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. The training shall include:

(A) five hours in the parenting coordination process;

(B) ten hours of family mediation;

(C) five hours of training in domestic violence; and

(D) in each two-year period after the initial appointment, ten continuing education credits on any topic related to parenting coordination with a minimum of two hours on domestic violence.

(2) An attorney or a mental health professional seeking an appointment as a parenting coordinator:

(i) shall sign an affidavit attesting that he or she has met the qualifications outlined in (b)(1);

(ii) shall submit the affidavit to the president judge or administrative judge of the judicial district where the parenting coordinator is seeking appointment; and

(iii) after submission of the initial affidavit, a parenting coordinator shall submit a new affidavit every two years attesting that he or she continues to meet the qualifications for a parenting coordinator outlined in (b)(1).

(c) Appointment Order. The parenting coordinator's authority as delineated in subdivision (d) shall be included in the order appointing the parenting coordinator, which shall be substantially in the form set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.22.

(d) Scope of Authority of the Parenting Coordinator. The parenting coordinator shall have the authority to recommend resolutions to the court on issues related to the custody order if the parties are unable to reach an agreement.

(1) To implement the custody order and resolve related parenting issues about which the parties cannot agree, the parenting coordinator is authorized to recommend resolutions to the court about issues that include, but are not limited to:

- (i) places and conditions for custodial transitions between households;
- (ii) temporary variation from the custodial schedule for a special event or particular circumstance;
- (iii) school issues, apart from school selection;
- (iv) the child(ren)'s participation in recreation, enrichment, and extracurricular activities, including travel;
- (v) child-care arrangements;
- (vi) clothing, equipment, toys, and personal possessions of the child(ren);
- (vii) information exchanges (e.g., school, health, social) between the parties and communication with or about the child(ren);
- (viii) coordination of existing or court-ordered services for the child(ren) (e.g., psychological testing, alcohol or drug monitoring/testing, psychotherapy, anger management);
- (ix) behavioral management of the child(ren); and
- (x) other related custody issues that the parties mutually have agreed in writing to submit to the parenting coordinator, which are not excluded in subdivision (d)(2).

(2) The following issues are excluded from the parenting coordinator's scope of authority:

- (i) a change in legal custody as set forth in the custody order;
- (ii) a change in primary physical custody as set forth in the custody order;
- (iii) except as set forth in subdivision (d)(1)(ii), a change in the court-ordered custody schedule that reduces or expands the child(ren)'s time with a party;
- (iv) a change in the residence (relocation) of the child(ren);
- (v) determination of financial issues, other than allocation of the parenting coordinator's fees as set forth in subdivision (g)(1);
- (vi) major decisions affecting the health, education, or religion of the child(ren); and
- (vii) other issues limited by the appointing judge.

(3) Unless the parties consent, the parenting coordinator shall not contact collateral sources or speak with the child(ren) and to effectuate this provision, the parties shall execute releases, as necessary, authorizing the parenting coordinator to communicate with the appropriate individuals. Any communication with the collateral sources or child(ren) shall be limited to the issue(s) currently before the parenting coordinator.

(e) Communications. No Testimony.

(1) Communication between the parties or the parties' attorneys and the parenting coordinator is not confidential.

(2) A party or a party's attorney may communicate in writing with the parenting coordinator, but shall contemporaneously send a copy of the written communication to the other party or the other party's attorney. Documents, recordings, or other material that one party gives to the parenting coordinator shall be promptly made available to the other party or the other party's attorney for inspection and copying.

(3) The parties and their attorneys may receive, but not initiate, oral *ex parte* communication with the parenting coordinator. A parenting coordinator may initiate oral communication with a party or party's attorney, but shall promptly advise the other party or the other party's attorney of the communication.

(4) Communication between the parenting coordinator and the court shall be in writing and copies of the written communication shall be sent contemporaneously to the parties or the parties' attorneys.

(5) A party cannot compel the testimony of a parenting coordinator without an order of court.

(f) Recommendations. Objecting to the Recommendation. Judicial Review. Record Hearing.

(1) The parenting coordinator shall provide to the parties notice and an opportunity to be heard on the issues.

(2) The parenting coordinator's recommendation shall be in writing on the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator form set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.23 and sent to the court for review within two days after hearing from the parties on the issues. The parenting coordinator shall serve a copy of the Summary and Recommendation on the parties or the parties' attorneys.

(3) A party objecting to the recommendation shall file a petition for a record hearing before the court within five days of service of the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator form. The petition must specifically state the issues to be reviewed and include a demand for a record hearing. A copy of the recommendation shall be attached to the petition. In accordance with Pa.R.C.P. No. 440, the objecting party shall serve the petition on the other party or the other party's attorney and the parenting coordinator.

(4) If the parties do not file an objection within five days of service of the parenting coordinator's recommendation, the court shall:

- (i) approve the recommendation;
- (ii) approve the recommendation in part and conduct a record hearing on issues not approved;
- (iii) remand the recommendation to the parenting coordinator for more specific information; or
- (iv) not approve the recommendation and conduct a record hearing on the issues.

(5) As soon as practical, the court shall conduct a record hearing on the issues specifically set forth in the petition. The court shall render a decision within the time set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.4(d).

(6) If a party makes a timely objection, the recommendation shall become an interim order of court pending further disposition by the court.

(g) Fees.

(1) The appointing judge shall allocate between the parties the fees of the parenting coordinator. The parenting coordinator may reallocate the fees, subject to the approval of the court, if one party has caused a disproportionate need for the services of the parenting coordinator.

(2) To limit the financial burden on the parties, a parenting coordinator should meet with the parties only upon a request of a party to resolve an issue about which the parties disagree.

(3) Waiver of fees or reduced fees. Judicial districts implementing a parenting coordination program shall effectuate a policy or program by local rule so that indigent or low-income parties may participate in the parenting coordination program at a reduced fee or no fee.

Rule 1915.22. Form of Order Appointing Parenting Coordinator. The order appointing a parenting coordinator pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.11-1 shall be in substantially the following form:

(Caption)

ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this _____ day of _____, 20__, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. APPOINTMENT AND TERM:

Pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.11-1, _____ is appointed as the parties' parenting coordinator for a term of ____ months (not exceeding 12 months).

Legal counsel for _____, or either party, if unrepresented, shall provide copies of all orders, pleadings and custody evaluations in this case to the parenting coordinator within ten (10) days of the date of this order.

2. ROLE OF THE PARENTING COORDINATOR:

(a) The parenting coordinator shall attempt to resolve issues arising out of the custody order by facilitating an agreement between the parties and, if unable to reach an agreement, recommend a resolution to the court.

(b) The parenting coordinator shall not function as the attorney, advocate, counselor, or psychotherapist for the parties, the parties' child(ren), or family. However, the parenting coordinator is permitted and encouraged to facilitate communication and agreement between the parties when conflicts arise and shall always act in a manner conducive to the best interests of the child(ren).

3. PARENTING COORDINATOR'S SCOPE OF AUTHORITY:

To implement the custodial arrangement set forth in the custody order and resolve related parenting issues about which the parties cannot agree, the parenting coordinator is authorized to recommend resolutions to the court about issues that include, but are not limited to:

- (a) places and conditions for transitions between households;
- (b) temporary variation from the schedule for a special event or particular circumstance;
- (c) school issues, apart from school selection;
- (d) the child(ren)'s participation in recreation, enrichment, and extracurricular activities, including travel;
- (e) child-care arrangements;
- (f) clothing, equipment, toys, and personal possessions of the child(ren);
- (g) information exchanges (e.g., school, health, social) and communication with or about the child(ren);
- (h) coordination of existing or court-ordered services for the child(ren) (e.g., psychological testing, alcohol or drug monitoring/testing, psychotherapy, anger management);
- (i) behavioral management of the child(ren); and
- (j) other related custody issues that the parties mutually have agreed in writing to submit to the parenting coordinator, which are not excluded in Paragraph 4.

4. EXCLUSIONS FROM PARENTING COORDINATOR'S AUTHORITY:

(a) The following specific issues are excluded from the parenting coordinator's scope of authority:

- (1) a change in legal custody as set forth in the custody order;
- (2) a change in primary physical custody set forth in the custody order;
- (3) other than as set forth in Paragraph 3(b), a change in the court-ordered custody schedule that reduces or expands the child(ren)'s time with a party;
- (4) a change in the residence (relocation) of the child(ren);
- (5) determination of financial issues, other than allocation of the parenting coordinator's fees as set forth in Pa.R.C.P 1915.11-1(g)(1);
- (6) major decisions affecting the health, education, or religion of the child(ren); and
- (7) Other: _____

(b) Unless the parties consent, the parenting coordinator shall not contact collateral sources or speak with the child(ren). The parties shall execute releases, as necessary, authorizing the parenting coordinator to communicate with the appropriate individuals. Any communication with the collateral sources or child(ren) shall be limited to the issue(s) currently before the parenting coordinator.

5. COMMUNICATIONS:

(a) The parenting coordinator shall determine the protocol of all communications, interviews, and sessions, including who shall attend the sessions (including the children), and whether the sessions will be conducted in person or by other means. The protocols should include measures addressing the safety of all participants.

(b) Communication between the parties or their attorneys and the parenting coordinator is not confidential.

(c) The parties and their attorneys shall have the right to receive, but not initiate, oral *ex parte* communication with the parenting coordinator. The parenting coordinator shall promptly advise the other party or the other party's attorney of the communication. A party or a party's attorney may communicate in writing with the parenting coordinator, but shall contemporaneously send a copy of the written communication to the other party or the other party's attorney. Documents, recordings, or other material that one party gives to the parenting coordinator must be promptly made available to the other party or the other party's attorney for inspection and copying.

(d) Communication between the parenting coordinator and the court shall be in writing and copies of the written communication shall be sent contemporaneously to the parties or the parties' attorneys.

(e) A party cannot compel the testimony of a parenting coordinator without an order of court.

6. PARENTING COORDINATION PROCESS:

(a) The parenting coordinator shall provide to the parties notice and an opportunity to be heard on the issues.

(b) The parenting coordinator's recommendation shall be in writing on the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator form set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.23 and sent to the court for review within two days after hearing from the parties on the issues. The parenting coordinator shall serve a copy of the Summary and Recommendation on the parties or the parties' attorneys.

(c) A party objecting to the recommendation shall file a petition for a record hearing before the court within five days of service of the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator form. The petition must specifically state the issues to be reviewed and include a demand for a record hearing. A copy of the recommendation shall be attached to the petition. In accordance with Pa.R.C.P. No. 440, the objecting party shall serve the petition upon the other party or the party's attorney and the parenting coordinator.

7. RECORD HEARING:

(a) If the parties do not file an objection within five days of service of the parenting coordinator's recommendation, the court shall:

- (1) approve the recommendation;
- (2) approve the recommendation in part and conduct a record hearing on issues not approved;
- (3) remand the recommendation to the parenting coordinator for more specific information; or
- (4) not approve the recommendation and conduct a record hearing on the issues.

(b) As soon as practical, the court shall conduct a record hearing on the issues specifically set forth in the petition. The court shall render a decision within the time set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.4(d).

(c) If a party makes a timely objection, the recommendation shall become an interim order of court pending further disposition by the court.

8. ALLOCATION OF FEES:

(a) The parties will share the obligation to pay the fees of the parenting coordinator as follows: ___% Mother, ___% Father, ___% Third party. Fees may be reallocated by the court or the parenting coordinator if a party has disproportionately caused the need for the services of the parenting coordinator.

(b) The judicial district's established hourly rate for parenting coordinators shall be set forth in a separate written agreement entered into between the parties and the parenting coordinator.

(c) The parties will pay a joint retainer to the parenting coordinator in the percentages set forth above in an amount to be set forth in a separate agreement

between the parties and the parenting coordinator. After each session, or at least once monthly, the parenting coordinator shall provide the parties with an invoice of charges incurred. The retainer may be replenished as services are rendered. Funds remaining at the conclusion of the parenting coordinator's appointment shall be returned to the parties.

9. TERMINATION/WITHDRAWAL OF PARENTING COORDINATOR:

(a) The parties may not terminate the parenting coordinator's services without court approval.

(b) A party seeking the termination of the parenting coordinator's services shall serve the other party or the party's attorney and parenting coordinator with a copy of the petition for termination.

(c) If the parenting coordinator seeks to withdraw from service in a case, the parenting coordinator shall petition the court and provide a copy of the petition to the parties or the parties' attorneys.

10. APPEAL:

If there is an appeal of the underlying custody order or this order, then this order shall be stayed during the pendency of the appeal.

BY THE COURT:

J.

Rule 1915.23. Form of the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator.

The recommendation of the parenting coordinator shall be in writing and shall be in substantially the following form:

(Caption)

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE PARENTING COORDINATOR**

The undersigned, the duly appointed parenting coordinator in the above-captioned matter, pursuant to the Order of Court dated _____, 20__, after submission of the issue described below and after providing the parties with an opportunity to heard on the issue, the parenting coordinator sets forth the following:

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE(S)

1. Description of the issue(s):

2. The respective parties' position on the issue(s):

RECOMMENDATION

Within five days of the date set forth below, a party may object to this recommendation by filing a petition with the court and requesting a record hearing before the judge as set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.11-1(f)(3).

The undersigned parenting coordinator certifies that this Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator has been served on the court and the parties or the parties' attorneys on the date set forth below

Date

Parenting Coordinator

ORDER OF COURT

**JUDICIAL REVIEW OF PARENTING
COORDINATOR'S RECOMMENDATION**

- The Recommendation is approved.
- The Recommendation is approved in part. The issue(s) not approved by the court is/are: _____
_____ and a record hearing is scheduled for _____, 20__ at _____ a.m./p.m. before the undersigned.
- The Recommendation is remanded to the parenting coordinator for additional information on the following issue(s): _____
- The Recommendation is not approved and a record hearing on the issue(s) is scheduled for _____, 20__ at _____ a.m./p.m. before the undersigned.

By the Court:

_____ Date

_____ J.

**SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

**Proposed Adoption of Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.11-3 and
Amendment of Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.11-1 and 1915.23**

The Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee is considering proposing to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania the adoption of Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.11-3 and the amendment of Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.11-1 and 1915.23 for the reasons set forth in the accompanying publication report. Pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. 103(a)(1), the proposal is being published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for comments, suggestions, or objections prior to submission to the Supreme Court.

Any report accompanying this proposal was prepared by the Committee to indicate the rationale for the proposed rulemaking. It will neither constitute a part of the rules nor be adopted by the Supreme Court.

Additions to the text of the proposal are bolded and underlined; deletions to the text are bolded and bracketed.

The Committee invites all interested persons to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in writing to:

**Lynnore K. Seaton, Counsel
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
PO Box 62635
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2635
FAX: 717-231-9531
domesticrules@pacourts.us**

All communications in reference to the proposal should be received by **September 13, 2023**. E-mail is the preferred method for submitting comments, suggestions, or objections; any e-mailed submission need not be reproduced and resubmitted via mail. The Committee will acknowledge receipt of all submissions.

By Domestic Relations Procedural Rules
Committee
David S. Pollock, Esquire
Chair

Rule 1915.11-1. Parenting Coordination.

[If a judicial district implements a parenting coordination program, the court shall maintain a roster of qualified individuals to serve as parenting coordinators and establish the hourly rate at which parenting coordinators shall be compensated. The parenting coordinator shall attempt to resolve issues arising out of the custody order by facilitating an agreement between the parties and, if unable to reach an agreement, recommend a resolution to the court.

(a) Appointment of a Parenting Coordinator.

- (1)** After a final custody order has been entered, a judge may appoint a parenting coordinator to resolve parenting issues in cases involving repeated or intractable conflict between the parties affecting implementation of the final custody order. A parenting coordinator should not be appointed in every case. The appointment may be made on the motion of a party or the court's motion.
- (2)** Unless the parties consent and appropriate safety measures are in place to protect the participants, including the parenting coordinator and other third parties, a parenting coordinator shall not be appointed if:
 - (i)** the parties to the custody action have a protection from abuse order in effect;
 - (ii)** the court makes a finding that a party has been the victim of domestic violence perpetrated by a party to the custody action, either during the pendency of the custody action or within 36 months preceding the filing of the custody action; or
 - (iii)** the court makes a finding that a party to the custody action has been the victim of a personal injury crime, as defined in 23 Pa.C.S. § 3103, which was perpetrated by a party to the custody action.
 - (iv)** If a party objects to the appointment of a parenting coordinator based on an allegation that the party has been the victim of domestic violence perpetrated by a party to the custody action, the court shall have a hearing

on the issue and may consider abuse occurring beyond the 36 months provided in subdivision (a)(2)(ii).

- (3) The appointment of a parenting coordinator shall be for a specified period, which shall not exceed 12 months. A party may petition the court for an extension of the appointment or the court in its discretion may extend the appointment for an additional period.
- (4) If the parenting coordinator seeks to withdraw from service in a case, the parenting coordinator shall petition the court and provide a copy of the petition to the parties or the parties' attorneys.
- (5) The parenting coordinator shall set forth in a separate written agreement with the parties:
 - (i) the amount of any retainer;
 - (ii) the hourly rate to be charged;
 - (iii) the process for invoices and payment for services;
 - (iv) information on the parenting coordination process; and
 - (v) provide a signed copy of the agreement to the parties before initiating any services.

Note: The parenting coordinator shall include in the parties' written agreement the hourly rate established by the judicial district.

(b) Qualifications of the Parenting Coordinator.

- (1) A parenting coordinator shall be licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as either an attorney or a mental health professional with a master's degree or higher. At a minimum, the parenting coordinator shall have:
 - (i) practiced family law for five years or have five years of professional post-degree experience in psychiatry, psychology, counseling, family therapy, or other comparable behavioral or social science field; and

- (ii) specialized training by a provider approved or certified by the American Psychological Association, Pennsylvania Psychological Association, American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, or American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. The training shall include:
 - (A) five hours in the parenting coordination process;
 - (B) ten hours of family mediation;
 - (C) five hours of training in domestic violence; and
 - (D) in each two-year period after the initial appointment, ten continuing education credits on any topic related to parenting coordination with a minimum of two hours on domestic violence.
- (2) An attorney or a mental health professional seeking an appointment as a parenting coordinator:
 - (i) shall sign an affidavit attesting that he or she has met the qualifications outlined in (b)(1);
 - (ii) shall submit the affidavit to the president judge or administrative judge of the judicial district where the parenting coordinator is seeking appointment; and
 - (iii) after submission of the initial affidavit, a parenting coordinator shall submit a new affidavit every two years attesting that he or she continues to meet the qualifications for a parenting coordinator outlined in (b)(1).
- (c) Appointment Order. The parenting coordinator's authority as delineated in subdivision (d) shall be included in the order appointing the parenting coordinator, which shall be substantially in the form set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.22.
- (d) Scope of Authority of the Parenting Coordinator. The parenting coordinator shall have the authority to recommend resolutions to the court on issues related to the custody order if the parties are unable to reach an agreement.

- (1) To implement the custody order and resolve related parenting issues about which the parties cannot agree, the parenting coordinator is authorized to recommend resolutions to the court about issues that include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) places and conditions for custodial transitions between households;
 - (ii) temporary variation from the custodial schedule for a special event or particular circumstance;
 - (iii) school issues, apart from school selection;
 - (iv) the child(ren)'s participation in recreation, enrichment, and extracurricular activities, including travel;
 - (v) child-care arrangements;
 - (vi) clothing, equipment, toys, and personal possessions of the child(ren);
 - (vii) information exchanges (e.g., school, health, social) between the parties and communication with or about the child(ren);
 - (viii) coordination of existing or court-ordered services for the child(ren) (e.g., psychological testing, alcohol or drug monitoring/testing, psychotherapy, anger management);
 - (ix) behavioral management of the child(ren); and
 - (x) other related custody issues that the parties mutually have agreed in writing to submit to the parenting coordinator, which are not excluded in subdivision (d)(2).
- (2) The following issues are excluded from the parenting coordinator's scope of authority:
 - (i) a change in legal custody as set forth in the custody order;

- (ii) a change in primary physical custody as set forth in the custody order;
 - (iii) except as set forth in subdivision (d)(1)(ii), a change in the court-ordered custody schedule that reduces or expands the child(ren)'s time with a party;
 - (iv) a change in the residence (relocation) of the child(ren);
 - (v) determination of financial issues, other than allocation of the parenting coordinator's fees as set forth in subdivision (g)(1);
 - (vi) major decisions affecting the health, education, or religion of the child(ren); and
 - (vii) other issues limited by the appointing judge.
- (3) Unless the parties consent, the parenting coordinator shall not contact collateral sources or speak with the child(ren) and to effectuate this provision, the parties shall execute releases, as necessary, authorizing the parenting coordinator to communicate with the appropriate individuals. Any communication with the collateral sources or child(ren) shall be limited to the issue(s) currently before the parenting coordinator.
- (e) **Communications. No Testimony.**
- (1) Communication between the parties or the parties' attorneys and the parenting coordinator is not confidential.
 - (2) A party or a party's attorney may communicate in writing with the parenting coordinator, but shall contemporaneously send a copy of the written communication to the other party or the other party's attorney. Documents, recordings, or other material that one party gives to the parenting coordinator shall be promptly made available to the other party or the other party's attorney for inspection and copying.
 - (3) The parties and their attorneys may receive, but not initiate, oral *ex parte* communication with the parenting coordinator. A parenting coordinator may initiate oral communication with a

party or party's attorney, but shall promptly advise the other party or the other party's attorney of the communication.

- (4) Communication between the parenting coordinator and the court shall be in writing and copies of the written communication shall be sent contemporaneously to the parties or the parties' attorneys.
 - (5) A party cannot compel the testimony of a parenting coordinator without an order of court.
- (f) Recommendations. Objecting to the Recommendation. Judicial Review. Record Hearing.
- (1) The parenting coordinator shall provide to the parties notice and an opportunity to be heard on the issues.
 - (2) The parenting coordinator's recommendation shall be in writing on the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator form set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.23 and sent to the court for review within two days after hearing from the parties on the issues. The parenting coordinator shall serve a copy of the Summary and Recommendation on the parties or the parties' attorneys.
 - (3) A party objecting to the recommendation shall file a petition for a record hearing before the court within five days of service of the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator form. The petition must specifically state the issues to be reviewed and include a demand for a record hearing. A copy of the recommendation shall be attached to the petition. In accordance with Pa.R.C.P. No. 440, the objecting party shall serve the petition on the other party or the other party's attorney and the parenting coordinator.
 - (4) If the parties do not file an objection within five days of service of the parenting coordinator's recommendation, the court shall:
 - (i) approve the recommendation;
 - (ii) approve the recommendation in part and conduct a record hearing on issues not approved;

- (iii) remand the recommendation to the parenting coordinator for more specific information; or
 - (iv) not approve the recommendation and conduct a record hearing on the issues.
 - (5) As soon as practical, the court shall conduct a record hearing on the issues specifically set forth in the petition. The court shall render a decision within the time set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.4(d).
 - (6) If a party makes a timely objection, the recommendation shall become an interim order of court pending further disposition by the court.
- (g) Fees.
 - (1) The appointing judge shall allocate between the parties the fees of the parenting coordinator. The parenting coordinator may reallocate the fees, subject to the approval of the court, if one party has caused a disproportionate need for the services of the parenting coordinator.
 - (2) To limit the financial burden on the parties, a parenting coordinator should meet with the parties only upon a request of a party to resolve an issue about which the parties disagree.
 - (3) Waiver of fees or reduced fees. Judicial districts implementing a parenting coordination program shall effectuate a policy or program by local rule so that indigent or low-income parties may participate in the parenting coordination program at a reduced fee or no fee.]

(The following text is entirely new.)

- (a) Parenting Coordination Program.
 - (1) If a judicial district implements a parenting coordination program, the court shall:
 - (i) maintain a roster of qualified individuals to serve as parenting coordinators; and

- (ii) establish the hourly rate at which parenting coordinators shall be compensated.
 - (2) The parenting coordinator shall:
 - (i) attempt to resolve issues arising out of the custody order by facilitating an agreement between the parties; and
 - (ii) if unable to reach an agreement, recommend a resolution to the court.
- (b) **Parenting Coordinator Appointment.**
- (1) **Appointment.** After a final custody order has been entered, a judge may appoint a parenting coordinator to resolve parenting issues in cases involving repeated or intractable conflict between the parties, that affects the implementation of the final custody order.
 - (i) A parenting coordinator should not be appointed in every case.
 - (ii) The appointment may be made on the motion of a party or the court's motion.
 - (2) **Domestic Violence Exception.** In matters that involve domestic violence, a hearing shall be held to determine if the appointment of a parenting coordinator is appropriate.
 - (i) Domestic violence matters include the following:
 - (a) the parties to the action have a protection from abuse order in effect;
 - (b) the court finds that a party has been the victim of domestic violence perpetrated by a party to the action, either during the pendency of the action or within 36 months preceding the filing of the action; or
 - (c) the court finds that a party to the action has been the victim of a personal injury crime, as defined in 23 Pa.C.S. § 3103, which was perpetrated by a party to the action.

- (ii) In the hearing, the court may consider abuse occurring beyond the 36 months provided in subdivision (b)(2)(ii).
- (iii) Safety measures shall be in place to protect the parties, parenting coordinator, and third parties if a parenting coordinator is appointed in these matters.

(3) **Duration of Appointment.**

- (i) The appointment of a parenting coordinator shall be for a specified period, which shall not exceed 12 months.
- (ii) A party may petition the court for an extension of the appointment or the court in its discretion may extend the appointment for an additional period.

(4) **Withdraw.** If the parenting coordinator seeks to withdraw from service in a case, the parenting coordinator shall petition the court and provide a copy of the petition to the parties or the parties' attorneys.

(5) **Written Agreement.** The parenting coordinator shall set forth in a separate written agreement with the parties:

- (i) the amount of any retainer;
- (ii) the hourly rate to be charged;
- (iii) the process for invoices and payment for services;
- (iv) information on the parenting coordination process; and
- (v) provide a signed copy of the agreement to the parties before initiating any services.

(c) **Parenting Coordinator Qualifications.**

- (1) A parenting coordinator shall be licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as either an attorney or a mental health professional with a master's degree or higher.
- (2) At a minimum, the parenting coordinator shall have:

- (i) practiced family law for five years or have five years of professional post-degree experience in psychiatry, psychology, counseling, family therapy, or other comparable behavioral or social science field; and
 - (ii) specialized training by a provider approved or certified by the American Psychological Association, Pennsylvania Psychological Association, American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, or American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. The training shall include:
 - (A) five hours in the parenting coordination process;
 - (B) ten hours of family mediation;
 - (C) five hours of training in domestic violence; and
 - (D) in each two-year period after the initial appointment, ten continuing education credits on any topic related to parenting coordination with a minimum of two hours on domestic violence.
- (3) An attorney or a mental health professional seeking an appointment as a parenting coordinator:
 - (i) shall sign an affidavit attesting that he or she has met the qualifications outlined in subdivisions (c)(1) and (c)(2);
 - (ii) shall submit the affidavit to the president judge or administrative judge of the judicial district where the parenting coordinator is seeking appointment; and
 - (iii) after submission of the initial affidavit, a parenting coordinator shall submit a new affidavit every two years attesting that he or she continues to meet the qualifications for a parenting coordinator outlined in subdivision (c)(1) and (c)(2).
- (d) **Appointment Order.** The parenting coordinator's authority as delineated in subdivision (e) shall be included in the order appointing the parenting coordinator, which shall be substantially in the form set forth in Rule 1915.22.

(e) **Scope of Authority of the Parenting Coordinator.** If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the parenting coordinator shall have the authority to recommend resolutions to the court on issues related to the custody order.

(1) **Issues Included.** To implement the custody order and resolve related parenting issues about which the parties cannot agree, the parenting coordinator is authorized to recommend resolutions to the court about issues that include, but are not limited to:

- (i) places and conditions for custodial transitions between households;
- (ii) temporary variation from the custodial schedule for a special event or particular circumstance;
- (iii) school issues, apart from school selection;
- (iv) the child's participation in recreation, enrichment, and extracurricular activities, including travel;
- (v) child-care arrangements;
- (vi) clothing, equipment, toys, and the child's personal possessions;
- (vii) information exchanges (e.g., school, health, social) between the parties and communication with or about the child;
- (viii) coordination of existing or court-ordered services for the child (e.g., psychological testing, alcohol or drug monitoring/testing, psychotherapy, anger management);
- (ix) the child's behavioral management; and
- (x) other related custody issues that the parties mutually have agreed in writing to submit to the parenting coordinator, which are not excluded in subdivision (e)(2).

(2) **Excluded Issues.** The following issues are excluded from the parenting coordinator's scope of authority:

- (i) a change in legal custody as set forth in the custody order;

- (ii) a change in primary physical custody as set forth in the custody order;
- (iii) except as set forth in subdivision (e)(1)(ii), a change in the court-ordered custody schedule that reduces or expands the child's time with a party;
- (iv) a change in the child's residence (relocation);
- (v) determination of financial issues, other than allocation of the parenting coordinator's fees as set forth in subdivision (h)(1);
- (vi) major decisions affecting the child's health, education, or religion; and
- (vii) other issues limited by the appointing judge.

(3) **Collateral Sources.**

- (i) Unless the parties consent, the parenting coordinator shall not contact collateral sources or speak with the child.
- (ii) To effectuate subdivision (e)(3)(i), the parties shall execute releases, as necessary, authorizing the parenting coordinator to communicate with the appropriate individuals.
- (iii) Any communication with the collateral sources or child shall be limited to the issue currently before the parenting coordinator.

(f) **Communications. No Testimony.**

- (1) Communication between the parties or the parties' attorneys and the parenting coordinator is not confidential.
- (2) **Written Communication.**
 - (i) A party or a party's attorney may communicate in writing with the parenting coordinator.
 - (ii) Contemporaneously with communications with the parenting coordinator as provided in subdivision (f)(2)(i), the party shall

send a copy of the written communication to the other party or the other party's attorney.

(3) Documents, recordings, or other material that a party gives to the parenting coordinator shall be promptly made available to the other party or the other party's attorney for inspection and copying.

(4) **Oral Communication.**

(i) The parties and their attorneys may receive, but not initiate, oral *ex parte* communication with the parenting coordinator.

(ii) A parenting coordinator may initiate oral communication with a party or party's attorney but shall promptly advise the other party or the other party's attorney of the communication.

(5) Communication between the parenting coordinator and the court shall be in writing and copies of the written communication shall be sent contemporaneously to the parties or the parties' attorneys.

(6) A party cannot compel the testimony of a parenting coordinator without an order of court.

(g) **Recommendations. Objecting to the Recommendation. Judicial Review. Record Hearing.**

(1) The parenting coordinator shall provide to the parties notice and an opportunity to be heard on the issues.

(2) The parenting coordinator's recommendation shall be in writing on the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator form, which shall be substantially in the form set forth in Rule 1915.23.

(i) The parenting coordinator shall send the recommendation to the court for review within two days after hearing from the parties on the issues.

(ii) The parenting coordinator shall serve a copy of the recommendation on the parties or the parties' attorneys, concurrently with sending the recommendation to the court.

- (iii) The parenting coordinator's recommendation shall be binding on the parties pending the court's disposition pursuant to subdivisions (3) or (4) below.
 - (3) A party objecting to the recommendation shall file a petition for a record hearing before the court within five days of service of the recommendation.
 - (i) The petition must specifically state the issues to be reviewed and include a demand for a record hearing. A copy of the recommendation shall be attached to the petition.
 - (ii) In accordance with Rule 440, the objecting party shall serve the petition on the other party or the other party's attorney and the parenting coordinator.
 - (iii) As soon as practical, the court shall conduct a record hearing on the issues specifically set forth in the petition.
 - (4) If the parties do not file an objection within five days of service of the parenting coordinator's recommendation, the court shall:
 - (i) approve the recommendation;
 - (ii) approve the recommendation in part and conduct a record hearing on issues not approved;
 - (iii) remand the recommendation to the parenting coordinator for more specific information; or
 - (iv) not approve the recommendation and conduct a record hearing on the issues.
 - (5) The court shall render a decision within the time set forth in Rule 1915.4.
 - (6) The court's decision shall be served on the parties and the parenting coordinator.
- (h) **Fees.**
- (1) **Allocation.**

- (i) The appointing judge shall allocate between the parties the fees of the parenting coordinator.
 - (ii) The parenting coordinator may reallocate the fees, subject to the approval of the court, if one party has caused a disproportionate need for the services of the parenting coordinator.
- (2) **Limitation.** To limit the financial burden on the parties, a parenting coordinator should meet with the parties only upon a request of a party to resolve an issue about which the parties disagree.
- (3) **Enforcement.** If one or both parties fail to pay according to the parenting coordinator's agreement, the parenting coordinator may file a recommendation with the court to order the parties to pay.
- (4) **Waiver of Fees or Reduced Fees.** Judicial districts implementing a parenting coordination program shall effectuate a policy or program by local rule so that indigent or low-income parties may participate in the parenting coordination program at a reduced fee or no fee.

Comment: The parenting coordinator shall include in the parties' written agreement the hourly rate established by the judicial district.

Rule 1915.11-3. Certification of Parenting Coordination Program.

- (a) **Implementation.** Each judicial district may determine if they are implementing a parenting coordination program.
- (b) **Certification.** The president judge or the administrative judge of the Family Division of each judicial district shall certify if they have established a parenting coordination program. The certification shall be filed with the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, and shall be substantially in the following form:

I hereby certify that _____ County has implemented a parenting coordination program in accordance with Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.11-1.

(President Judge)

(Administrative Judge)

Comment: For a list of judicial districts having a parenting coordination program see <https://www.pacourts.us/courts/supreme-court/committees/rules-committees/domestic-relations-procedural-rules-committee>.

Rule 1915.23. Form of the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator.

The recommendation of the parenting coordinator shall be in writing and shall be in substantially the following form:

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE PARENTING COORDINATOR**

The undersigned, the duly appointed parenting coordinator in the above-captioned matter, pursuant to the Order of Court dated _____, 20__, after submission of the issue described below and after providing the parties with an opportunity to heard on the issue, the parenting coordinator sets forth the following:

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE(S)

1. Description of the issue(s):

2. The respective parties' position on the issue(s):

AGREEMENT

If the parties reached an agreement, please provide the terms below:

RECOMMENDATION

Within five days of the date set forth below, a party may object to this recommendation by filing a petition with the court and requesting a record hearing before the judge as set forth in Pa.R.Civ.P. [No.] 1915.11-1(f)(g)(3).

The undersigned parenting coordinator certifies that this Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator has been served on the court and the parties or the parties' attorneys on the date set forth below

Date

Parenting Coordinator

ORDER OF COURT

JUDICIAL REVIEW OF PARENTING COORDINATOR'S RECOMMENDATION

- The Recommendation is approved.
- The Recommendation is approved in part. The issue(s) not approved by the court is/are: _____
_____ and a record hearing is scheduled for _____, 20__ at _____ a.m./p.m. before the undersigned.
- The Recommendation is remanded to the parenting coordinator for additional information on the following issue(s): _____
- The Recommendation is not approved and a record hearing on the issue(s) is scheduled for _____, 20__ at _____ a.m./p.m. before the undersigned.

By the Court:

Date

J.

**SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE**

PUBLICATION REPORT

The Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee (Committee) proposes the adoption of Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 1915.11-3 and the amendment of Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure 1915.11-1 and 1915.23. These rules pertain to parenting coordination.

The Committee received a written request to publicly provide a list of all counties that have adopted local rules related to parenting coordination. It was suggested that this will assist attorneys, particularly those who have multiple county practices in advising their clients on the availability of parenting coordination. To address this request, the Committee proposes Rule 1915.11-3, which requires certification by counties that have implemented parenting coordination procedures. This approach is similar to the requirement that counties certify their conference procedures in support, custody, and divorce. See Pa.R.Civ.P. 1910.10, 1915.4-1, and 1920.55-1.

The Committee was also requested to amend Rule 1915.11-1. Initially, the Committee proposes that the rule be re-structured stylistically for ease of reading and reference.

It was suggested that the current requirement of consent from both parties in matters that involve domestic violence creates the opportunity for the abuser to further control the victim by withholding consent to parenting coordination, and therefore requiring more costly litigation, rather than resolving issues through the parenting coordinator. After discussing the complexities of this issue, the Committee proposes that subdivision (b)(2) of the rule be amended to remove the consent provision and to require that the court hold a hearing before appointing parenting coordinators in all matters that involve domestic violence. This would allow the court to determine the appropriateness of parenting coordination and ascertain if appropriate safety measures are possible.

The Committee also considered methods for parenting coordinators to enforce payment of their fees. In the absence of a provision related to the enforcement of their fee agreement, the parenting coordinator cannot enforce the agreement except by reaching out directly to the judge who assigned the case to them. To address this issue, the Committee proposes that the rule be amended in subdivision (h)(3) to permit, if one or both parties fail to pay according to the parenting coordination agreement, the parenting coordinator to file a recommendation with the court requiring the parties to pay before seeking to withdraw from the case.

An additional proposal is to add language to subdivision (g)(2)(iii) to confirm that the parenting coordinator's recommendation is binding pending the disposition by the court even if objections are not filed. This is the current practice; however, it is not specifically stated in the rule. Some parties or courts may interpret this omission as the parenting coordinator's recommendation having no effect until the court approves it.

The Committee also proposes that language be added to subdivision (g)(7) stating that the court will serve the parenting coordinator with decisions regarding recommendations. Currently, there is no such requirement which may result in the parenting coordinator not being aware of the terms of the final order.

Finally, the Committee received a request to amend the form in Rule 1915.23 to include a recitation of the parties' agreement if one is reached. Currently, there is no uniform method for parenting coordinators to submit agreements to the court. The Committee believes revising this form will allow parenting coordinators to record the parties' agreement quickly and efficiently. The revision may also assist the court to have a record of the agreement for purposes of enforcement and context in any subsequent modification or special relief hearings.

The Committee invites comments, concerns, and suggestions regarding this rulemaking proposal.

Rule 1915.23 - Form of the Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator

(Caption)

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PARENTING COORDINATOR

The undersigned, the duly appointed parenting coordinator in the above-captioned matter, pursuant to the Order of Court dated _____, 20__, after submission of the issue described below and after providing the parties with an opportunity to heard on the issue, the parenting coordinator sets forth the following:

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE(S)

1. Description of the issue(s):

2. The respective parties' position on the issue(s):

RECOMMENDATION

Within five days of the date set forth below, a party may object to this recommendation by filing a petition with the court and requesting a record hearing before the judge as set forth in Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.11-1(f)(3).

The undersigned parenting coordinator certifies that this Summary and Recommendation of the Parenting Coordinator has been served on the court and the parties or the parties' attorneys on the date set forth below

Date

Parenting Coordinator

ORDER OF COURT JUDICIAL REVIEW OF PARENTING COORDINATOR'S RECOMMENDATION

The Recommendation is approved.

The Recommendation is approved in part. The issue(s) not approved by the court is/are: _____

_____ and a record hearing is scheduled for _____, 20__ at _____ a.m./p.m. before the undersigned.

The Recommendation is remanded to the parenting coordinator for additional information on the following issue(s): _____

The Recommendation is not approved and a record hearing on the issue(s) is scheduled for _____, 20__ at _____ a.m./p.m. before the undersigned.

By the Court:

Date

J.

Phil. Cnty. Pa. 1915.11-1

(2) Objections to Parenting Coordinator's Recommendation(s) and Petition for a Record Hearing.

a. A party objecting to the Recommendations must file with the Clerk of Family Court an original and copy of their Objections and a Petition for a Record Hearing before the Court within five days of service of the Summary and Recommendations together with a Proof of Service upon all parties and the Parenting Coordinator.

b. The Clerk of Family Court shall promptly forward the original Objections and Petition to the Administrative Family Court Judge's Office for assignment to the parties' Family Court Judge to promptly schedule a record hearing. If the matter is an emergency or time-sensitive and the assigned Family Court Judge is not available, the matter will be assigned to the Emergency Custody Judge to conduct a record hearing.

(3) Court Review of Parenting Coordinator's Recommendations.

If no objections to the Parenting Coordinator's Recommendation are filed with the Clerk of Family Court within five days of service of the Summary and Recommendation, the Clerk of Family Court shall transmit the file to the Administrative Family Court Judge's Office to be assigned to the appointing Judge, if available, within a reasonable time, otherwise to any Family Court Judge for review of the Recommendation in accordance with Pa.R.C.P. No. 1915.11-1(f)(4).