



Understanding Parenting Plans

Georgia requires a parenting plan in every case involving custody of minor children. The plan sets out how parents share decisions and time with the children. It is intended to be used as a guide, especially communication breaks down. The goal is for parents to stay flexible with each other.

What the plan covers

- 1 Legal Custody.** Who makes major decisions about education, health care, religion, and activities, and how parents share them.
- 2 Parenting Time.** The regular schedule showing when the children are with each parent.
- 3 Holidays.** How holidays, birthdays, school breaks, and special days are shared or alternated.
- 4 Summer.** How summer time is divided and how much notice each parent gives about vacation plans.
- 5 Transportation and Exchanges.** Where, when, and how the children move between homes, and who drives.
- 6 Communication.** How parents communicate with each other and how the children stay in touch with each parent.

How it works in practice

A Fallback. The plan is the default when parents cannot agree. It is not necessarily required to control every day.

Flexibility. When parents cooperate, they can agree to trade days or adjust the schedule.

Confirm in Writing. A quick email or text confirming a change helps avoid misunderstandings.

Court Order. Once the judge approves it, the plan becomes part of a court order.

What to keep in mind

Flexibility and cooperation serve your children better than a strict schedule.

Keep the children out of adult conversations and disagreements.

You can always agree to deviate from the plan, but formal, lasting changes generally require a new agreement or order approved by the court.

This guide provides general information about parenting plans in Georgia family law matters and is not legal advice about your specific case. Your attorney will explain how a parenting plan applies to your situation.

YOUR ROLE

Think through your children's routines, school calendar, and activities, share what matters most to you, and review the draft plan carefully before signing.

QUESTIONS?

As always, all questions and requests should be directed to the team via email to team@pepitone.law.