

5 OVERLOOKED FACTORS...

THAT CAN WREAK HAVOC ON YOU PARENTING.



1 PARENTING TIME

- Parents may take an informal approach to parenting time if things are generally "okay" between them as they divorce.
- Without a written plan, issues such as conflicting or misunderstood pick up and drop off times and/or locations can cause never ending frustration.
- Do you want your former spouse to be able to show up unannounced, drop the children off after their bed time or interfere with your personal plans?
- Holidays and vacations can become stressful nightmares for everyone – especially children.
- When a breakdown in co-parenting occurs, you may find yourself in court to file a motion to formally establish parenting time.
- It's time-consuming and costly to fix something that could have easily been agreed to at the time of the divorce.

2 EDUCATION

- Private schools and college costs are often not addressed when children are young at the time of divorce.
- Post judgment litigation costs to address these issues later can cost thousands.
- Consider adding a provision to your divorce decree that lays out a specific process for determining school and college tuition cost-sharing.
- If these issues are not addressed prior to your divorce, your child's first year tuition may be spent on litigation -- rather than education!

3 SHARED CUSTODY

- Shared custody is generally encouraged to give parents equal access to their children. However...
- Be aware that shared custody requires more frequent contact and communication with the other parent.
- Many parents misunderstand how this works and how much autonomy they lose in their decision making.
- With no designation of "parent of primary residence," one parent could restrict the other parent's ability to relocate a greater distance and/or result in costly court litigation to resolve.
- Think carefully about possible future moves (on the part of either parent) before agreeing to shared custody.

4 EMANCIPATION

- Contrary to popular belief, a child IS NOT automatically emancipated at age 18.
- This mistake has actually led to incarceration when a parent failed to pay child support when their child went off to college.
- But times are changing...
- Child support now automatically terminates upon the child turning 19, unless the child is in college or other circumstances are present.
- Any obligation to pay child support ends at age 23. If financial support is still needed by the child after this age, it falls under "Special Maintenance" payments.
- Not every case is the same so talk your attorney about your child's support needs.

5 UNEXPECTED "AGREEMENTS"

- Agreeing informally to make an "exception" to your custody agreement can come back to haunt you.
- The other parent can use this situation to get the court to make a permanent modification.
- Avoid court battles by putting any change to your parenting time plan in writing.

**Safeguarding your rights starts now.
Get help from a divorce & family law specialist.**



Weinberger Divorce & Family Law Group is solely focused on New Jersey divorce and family law, making us uniquely qualified to understand the challenges you are facing, as well as the intricate rules and protocols of family court.

To schedule an initial attorney consultation, please call us at 888-888-0919