

<p style="text-align: center;">Parents guide to developing the Parenting Plan Maintaining a sense of Family</p>

PERMANENT PARENTING PLAN

The Tennessee Parenting Plan is a program designed to empower the court system with legislation and parents with necessary tools and skills to provide a better comfort level for children of divorce. The Permanent Parenting Plan recognizes the fundamental importance of the parent-child relationship to the welfare of the child. In most situations, children do best when they receive the emotional and financial support of both parents. Every component of the parenting plan is designed to focus on the child's best interest:

- ! Development of the permanent parenting plan provides parents with an opportunity to establish a road map for future parenting of the child.
- ! This plan can serve as a successful tool in reducing conflict when it is prepared in thoughtful, rational discussions rather than in heated emotional exchanges.
- ! It removes legal jargon and replaces it with common, everyday terms, and sets the framework to develop a family reorganization.
- ! It can work to preserve family relationships.
- ! It encourages both parents to make their children the number one priority, and to see the need for the children to maintain a close, continuing relationship with each parent.
- ! It enables both parents to remain involved in major decisions including education, religion, and medical care.

The Permanent Parenting Plan moves away from the concepts of "custody" and "visitation" to emphasize "parenting responsibilities ." The overall goal and objective of the plan is to lessen the hostility and encourage parents to work cooperatively in the best interest of their children. As parents working together you will make the major decisions including education, religion, and medical care. You will make the decisions on how to resolve future issues as you continue to parent your children.