

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

_____))
Petitioner,))
and))
_____)) Case No. _____
Respondent.))

ORDER APPOINTING PARENTING COORDINATOR

This matter is before the court pursuant to the request for the appointment of a parenting coordinator under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 909, with the Court being fully advised in the premises,

The Court FINDS as follows:

1. There is a basis for appointment of a parenting coordinator under Rule 909 because a permanent parenting plan or judgment allocating parental responsibilities has been entered, or due to unique circumstances, the court finds it necessary prior to entry, and
2. The appointment of a parenting coordinator is in the best interest of the children because:
 - a. The parents agree that a court-appointed parenting coordinator is in the best interest of the children; and/or
 - b. The parents have failed to adequately cooperate and communicate about issues involving their children; and/or
 - c. The parents have been unable to implement the existing parenting plan or parenting schedule; and/or
 - d. Mediation has not been successful or has been determined by the court to be inappropriate.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED as follows:

1. _____, a licensed _____ in Illinois with at least a J.D. or master's degree in social work, psychology, or counseling, and more than five years' experience in family law, mental health, or a related field, is qualified to serve as parenting coordinator and is appointed parenting coordinator in this matter.
2. Within 7 days of the entry of this order, the parents shall contact the parenting coordinator to provide contact information and shall likewise notify the parenting coordinator of any change in contact information within 7 days after any such change.
3. Petitioner is ordered to pay \$_____ and Respondent is ordered to pay \$_____ of the \$1,5000 total initial retainer, directly to the office of the parenting coordinator within 7 days, or by close of business on _____.

4. Additional fees beyond the initial retainer shall be paid to the parenting coordinator at the rate of \$200.00 per hour. The parties shall be jointly and severally responsible for payment of the fees on an equal basis, unless a different division is indicated here: _____% Petitioner and _____% Respondent. Invoices shall be submitted by the parenting coordinator to the parties and shall be paid within 30 days.
5. If any services by the parenting coordinator are eligible for health insurance coverage, the same shall be submitted to the parties' health insurance plan(s), and the parties are required to sign any consents or waivers necessary to do so.
6. The parenting coordinator shall facilitate the resolution of conflict between the parents regarding the existing parenting plan or any subsequent parenting plan approved by the court, which shall include monitoring parental behaviors, mediation of disputes between parents at the request of the parents or the court, making recommendations to the parents for outside resources and/or rules for communication between the parents, documenting allegations of noncompliance, and making other recommendations to the court upon proper notice and petition.
7. The parenting coordinator shall make, whenever necessary, specific recommendations regarding the existing parenting plan which are in the best interest of the children, including pickup and drop-off times and locations, disputes regarding the extent and nature of participation in existing educational and extracurricular activities, including payment of those expenses, and disputes about minor alterations of parenting time or nonparent visitation or holiday scheduling, including make-up time if permitted by prior court order, discipline and behavior issues, health and personal care issues, and any other specific issues that the court may assign or that the parents agree does not exceed the parenting coordinator's authority.
8. The parenting coordinator shall not make recommendations as to allocation of parental decision-making, parenting time aside from minor alterations, relocation, the establishment of visitation by a nonparent, or child support, spousal maintenance or allocation of property or debt of the marriage.
9. The parents shall cooperate with the parenting coordinator and promptly respond to communications from the parenting coordinator. Noncooperation, unresponsiveness, or significantly delayed responsiveness to the parenting coordinator shall be grounds for the parenting coordinator to conclude that the matter is not contested.
10. The parenting coordinator shall have access to nonpublic court records involving the parents, including orders of protection and civil no contact/stalking orders.
11. Communications between the parents and the parenting coordinator shall not be confidential unless otherwise provided for by Supreme Court rule, statute, or court order in this case. No *ex parte* communication between the parenting coordinator and the court shall be permitted.
12. The parenting coordinator shall provide recommendations in writing to the parents within 14 days of receipt of all information necessary to make a recommendation. Such recommendation may be submitted to the court for entry as an agreed order.
13. The parents shall comply with the recommendations made by the parenting coordinator until and unless the court, after a hearing on a motion for review and any responses

thereto, rules that the recommendations are either: (a) in contravention of the child's best interest; or (b) outside the scope of the authority granted to the parenting coordinator.

14. The parents may file a motion for circuit court review of the parenting coordinator's recommendation and the recommendation will be reviewed by the circuit court de novo. A motion for review in which the parenting coordinator's recommendation is substantially affirmed may be grounds for the court to order reasonable attorney's fees and costs be paid to the prevailing coparent.
15. The court may request reports from the parenting coordinator with respect to any issue pending before the parenting coordinator or any recommendation by the parenting coordinator.

Date

Judge Anna M. Benjamin