

Family Mediation Scenarios

1. Father had an affair with the next-door neighbor near the end of the marriage, and later moves in with this person. Mother does not want children, ages 9 and 12, anywhere around the new partner, and also objects to this person being home alone with the children. If Father needs to leave the home, then she wants the children to return to her.
2. Parents have a 50/50 parenting time schedule, however, Mother but rarely exercises the time. Father reports he is constantly having to figure out daycare arrangements at the last minute. Father is now asking that the children, ages 4 and 8, be primarily in his care.
3. Parents have been exchanging the children, ages 6 and 8, at each residence but seem always to talk about adult/court issues front of the children. Last week, the 8-year-old wanted to know what Mother does with the support money Dad gives her. Mother has requested a neutral location or curbside exchanges. They reside approximately 30 minutes apart.
4. Parents have three (3) children, ages 5, 7, and 9. The 5-year-old and 7-year-old go between homes well, however, the 9-year-old often calls Mother crying to come home from Father's home or refuses to go at all. Mother suggests for the time being that he not be forced to go.
5. The child, age 3, has a difficult time sleeping and sometimes has night terrors. Mother lets her sleep in her bed when this happens. Father calls this "coddling" the child and insists she stay in her own bed. Daughter cries and does not sleep well at Father's home and is cranky when she returns to Mother. Last week, Mother heard that daughter did sleep with daddy and "daddy's friend" was there and "she did not have any clothes on!"
6. Daughter, age 13, is refusing to see her father after he got angry at her for texting her friends late at night. Mother reports she wants daughter to see father, but "cannot force her" to go. Father threatens court action if daughter does not get back on the regular parenting time schedule.
7. The Court Order says parents may contact the children, ages 3 and 5, to say goodnight each evening before bedtime when the children are not in their care. Father says that whenever he calls Mother's home to talk to the children she does not answer. Mother says that the children are often busy in the evening, or they don't want to talk. Mother points out that the calls are disruptive, and she wants to discontinue them.
8. Mother and Father live two (2) hours apart. Son is beginning kindergarten and Father wants to keep his Wednesday overnights and expand weekends to end with drop off at school on Monday morning.
9. Parents were living in Duluth, MN when they were together. When they separated, Mother took the boys, ages 1 and 3, with her to Woodbury, MN and enrolled them in daycare. Parents cannot decide on a parenting time schedule.
10. Parents have a 5-2-2-5 parenting time schedule for about a year now. Children are ages 11 and 13. Mother reports that they do not do their homework at Father's home, and she ends up doing it all with them when they return to her. Mother wants to discontinue any weeknight overnights.