

# PARENT COORDINATION

Custody disputes can be exhausting, expensive and overwhelming. The feelings of frustration and loss only intensify when parents feel that making decisions for their children is difficult to agree upon. Parent Coordination is a solution for parents in highly contentious relationships to help them make timely decisions for their children.

## WHAT IS PARENT COORDINATION?

A court certified Parent Coordinator (PC) provides a cost-effective solution to navigating the tricky path of co-parenting. PCs are trained to minimize the conflict that children are exposed to due to their parents' unresolved differences.

PCs have parents meet regularly to attempt to resolve day-to-day issues as a neutral and impartial party. If the parents cannot reach a joint decision after good faith attempts to do so, then the PC can decide on their behalf. The PC cannot decide custody or child support; rather, that is up to the parents. But, for issues relating to extracurricular activities, improving communications, changes in schedules, and reimbursements, the PC can assist. By retaining a PC, parents can work together in a more expedient way to support their children with their daily needs.

## WHY HIRE A PARENT COORDINATOR?

For parents who struggle with getting past their differences to make sound decisions, working with a trained PC can save considerable time, energy and legal fees. Here are the benefits of hiring a court certified parent coordinator:

- Parents agree to the process and what decisions the PC can, and cannot make, on their behalf.
- PCs work diligently with both parents to try to reach a decision and, if they cannot reach a decision, the PC will do so on their behalf.
- There is a written record of all discussions in PC meeting for parents and their lawyers. The PC process is not confidential.
- PCs can be called to testify as lay witnesses to testify how parents behaved in sessions and the substance of the discussions.
- Parents will share the fee for the PC. A two-hour meeting with a PC costs a fraction of what it costs for lawyers to resolve the dispute.
- Parents feel as if they have the chance to be heard by the other parent.

**If you are interested in learning more about the Parent Coordination process, or setting up an appointment to begin Parent Coordination, please contact us at 410-842-1070.**



laurie@wassermanlawoffice.com | (410) 842-1070



**LAURIE M. WASSERMAN, ESQ.**

## **CERTIFIED PARENT COORDINATOR**

BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE COURT

For the last 15 years, Laurie M. Wasserman has dedicated her legal career to helping her clients regain a sense of control in difficult family law situations. After hiring a parent coordinator for one of her own divorce cases, Laurie took note of the extreme satisfaction that her client experienced. For the first time in a difficult divorce, both parents were heard and decisions about their children were made.

After participating in a 40-hour training by the Administrative Offices of the Court in September of 2019, Laurie is now a court-certified Parent Coordinator. Family law attorneys hire Laurie to be the Parent Coordinator for their clients, so they can focus on their practice and not worry about making decisions in these highly contentious cases.

## **ABOUT LAURIE M. WASSERMAN**

FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY IN TOWSON, MD

In 2018, Laurie founded her own practice, the Law Office Of Laurie M. Wasserman LLC. Her team represent clients throughout the State of Maryland, including Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County and Anne Arundel County.

Laurie is a leader in the Family Law community, and was recently appointed to serve as a member the Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association's Family & Juvenile Section. She is a member of the Maryland Judiciary's Custody Evaluator Training & Standards Work Group, where she is tasked with reviewing the rules for Custody Evaluators and making recommendations to the Courts on best practices. She is also regularly recognized by her peers as a top family law lawyer in Maryland Super Lawyers.

Outside of work, Laurie enjoys spending time with her husband, son and daughter. She also loves reading, taking spin classes, and volunteering her time through various community organizations, including Disability Rights Maryland, where she serves on the Executive Council of the Board of Directors.



laurie@wassermanlawoffice.com | (410) 842-1070