Custody Agreement, PA

This **Custody Agreement** (“***Agreement***”) is made on _____ by and between the following parties:

Parent 1

_____

_____

_____

_____

Parent 2

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Parent 1 and Parent 2 are each a "***Party***" and collectively the "***Parties***".

The Parents enter into this Agreement concerning their child or children listed below:

Child's Full Name	Date of Birth
_____ _____	_____
_____ _____	_____

The Parents intend this Agreement to set out a parenting arrangement that serves the best interests of the child or children. If this Agreement is submitted to a Pennsylvania court and incorporated into a custody order, the court retains authority to approve, modify, or enforce it.

Recitals

WHEREAS, the Parents are the parents or legal guardians of the child or children identified above;

WHEREAS, the Parents wish to establish clear arrangements for legal custody, physical custody, communication, decision-making, and related parenting responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Parents believe that consistent contact with each parent, when safe and appropriate, serves the child or children’s best interests.

Therefore, the Parents agree as follows:

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1. Legal Custody

The Parents shall share legal custody of the child or children. Each Parent shall have the right to receive information and make major decisions concerning the child or children's welfare.

Major decisions include decisions concerning education, nonemergency medical and dental care, mental health treatment, religious upbringing, and significant extracurricular activities.

Before making a major decision, a Parent shall consult with the other Parent in good faith and provide a reasonable opportunity to participate in the decision. If the Parents cannot agree after reasonable discussion, they shall first attempt to resolve the issue through _____, unless immediate action is necessary to protect the child or children's health or safety.

2. Physical Custody Schedule

The Parents shall share physical custody under the following regular schedule:

Time Period	Parent with Pysical Custody

The regular schedule begins on _____.

A Parent may request a reasonable temporary change to the schedule. The requested change is effective only when both Parents agree in writing, including by text message or email. A temporary change does not permanently modify this Agreement.

3. Holiday and Special Occasion Schedule

The holiday schedule takes priority over the regular physical custody schedule. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, holiday periods begin at _____ and end at _____.

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The Parents shall reasonably cooperate to allow the child or children to celebrate important cultural, religious, and family occasions.

4. Vacation and School Breaks

Each Parent may take up to _____ nonconsecutive weeks of vacation time with the child or children each calendar year. A Parent requesting vacation time shall give the other Parent at least _____ days' written notice.

Vacation time may not interfere with the other Parent's scheduled holiday time unless the Parents agree in writing. Each Parent shall provide reasonable travel details, lodging information, and emergency contact information before out-of-town travel.

5. Exchanges and Transportation

Unless otherwise agreed, exchanges shall occur at _____.

The Parent beginning a custodial period shall be responsible for transportation. Each Parent shall ensure that the child or children are ready for exchange with necessary clothing, school materials, medication, and personal items.

Both Parents shall be punctual. If a Parent expects to be more than _____ minutes late, that Parent shall notify the other Parent as soon as reasonably possible.

Neither Parent shall use exchanges to argue, discuss disputed issues, or involve the child or children in adult conflict.

6. Communication With the Child or Children

While the child or children are with one Parent, the other Parent may have reasonable telephone, video, and electronic contact at appropriate times.

Neither Parent shall interfere with reasonable communication between the child or children and the other Parent. Neither Parent shall monitor, block, or discourage the child or children's communications except when reasonably necessary for health, safety, or age-appropriate supervision.

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7. Parent-to-Parent Communication

The Parents shall communicate respectfully and directly about matters affecting the child or children. Communications should be limited to parenting matters and made through _____.

Except in an emergency, each Parent shall respond to a parenting-related communication within _____ hours.

Neither Parent shall make derogatory statements about the other Parent, or permit others to do so, in the presence or hearing of the child or children.

8. Education, Medical Care, and Records

Each Parent may access the child or children's educational, medical, dental, and other records as permitted by law.

Each Parent shall promptly provide the other Parent with material information regarding school events, medical appointments, diagnoses, treatment recommendations, emergencies, and significant concerns affecting the child or children.

Either Parent may obtain emergency medical treatment when reasonably necessary. That Parent shall notify the other Parent as soon as practicable and provide available information about the treatment.

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9. Activities and Expenses

The Parents shall consult before enrolling the child or children in activities that require a significant time commitment, financial contribution, or transportation obligation from either Parent.

Unreimbursed expenses for the child or children shall be paid as follows:

Expense	Parent 1 Share	Parent 2 Share
Unreimbursed medical, dental, vision, and mental health expenses		
School-related expenses		
Agreed extracurricular activities		
Child care expenses		

A Parent seeking reimbursement shall provide reasonable documentation within _____ days after incurring the expense. The other Parent shall reimburse the required amount within _____ days after receiving documentation.

10. Child Support

Any child support obligation shall be governed by a separate written agreement, applicable court order, or Pennsylvania law. Nothing in this Agreement changes a support obligation unless approved through the appropriate legal process.

11. Relocation

Neither Parent shall relocate with the child or children in a manner that requires notice or consent under Pennsylvania law without following the required legal process.

Pennsylvania law generally requires the relocating party to obtain the consent of everyone with custody rights or court approval. It also sets notice requirements and procedures for objections to a proposed relocation. The Parents shall promptly notify one another of any anticipated move that may affect the custody schedule.

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12. Safety and Emergency Matters

Each Parent shall take reasonable steps to protect the child or children's health, welfare, and safety.

A Parent with an immediate safety concern involving the child or children shall notify the other Parent as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. Nothing in this Agreement prevents either Parent from seeking emergency assistance, medical care, or court protection when appropriate.

12. Safety and Emergency Matters

Each Parent shall take reasonable steps to protect the child or children's health, welfare, and safety.

A Parent with an immediate safety concern involving the child or children shall notify the other Parent as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. Nothing in this Agreement prevents either Parent from seeking emergency assistance, medical care, or court protection when appropriate.

13. Modification

The Parents may agree in writing to temporary scheduling adjustments. A permanent modification of this Agreement must be in writing and, if this Agreement has been incorporated into a court order, submitted to the court when required.

The Parents understand that a Pennsylvania court may modify custody arrangements when legally appropriate and based on the child or children's best interests.

14. Enforcement

If either Parent believes the other Parent has failed to comply with this Agreement, the Parents shall first attempt to resolve the matter through direct communication or the dispute-resolution process stated in the Legal Custody clause, unless an emergency or safety concern makes that inappropriate.

Either Parent may seek relief from a court with proper authority. This Agreement does not limit either Parent's legal rights or the court's authority.

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15. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

16. Entire Agreement

This Agreement contains the complete understanding of the Parents regarding custody matters addressed here. It supersedes prior informal parenting arrangements concerning the same matters.

If any provision is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain effective to the extent permitted by law.

17. Court Approval

If the Parents wish for this Agreement to become part of a custody order, they shall submit it to the appropriate Pennsylvania court in accordance with applicable statewide and county procedures. Local court requirements may differ, and self-represented parties must comply with the applicable procedural rules.

Signatures

By signing below, each Parent states that they have read this Agreement, understand it, and enter into it voluntarily.

Parent 1

Name

Date

Signature

Parent 2

Name

Date

Signature

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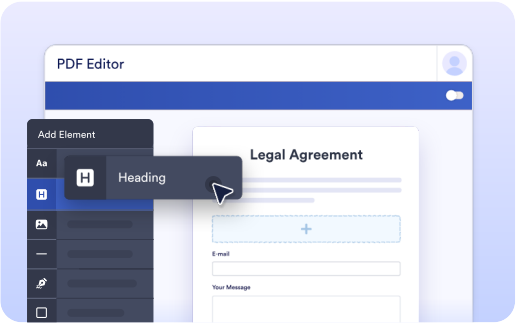
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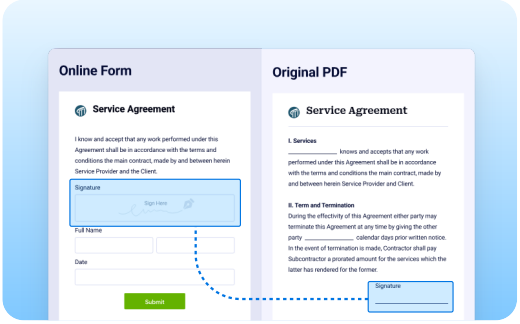
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