

CAUSE NO. _____

IN THE INTEREST OF § IN THE _____ JUDICIAL
§
§ DISTRICT COURT
§
CHILD(REN) § _____ COUNTY, TEXAS

ORDER APPOINTING PARENTING COORDINATOR

IT IS ORDERED that Bradley S. Craig, LMSW-IPR, CFLE is appointed as parenting coordinator. The Court finds that there is good cause shown for appointment of a parenting coordinator pursuant to section 153.610 of the Texas Family Code and that such an appointment is in the best interest of the children in this suit. The Court further finds that Bradley S. Craig, LMSW-IPR, CFLE meets the requirements of section 153.610 (a) of the Texas Family Code, as documented by Bradley S. Craig.

All parties are ordered to provide a copy of this order along with all fully completed intake forms from childreninthemiddle.com/ParentingCoordination.htm to Bradley Craig at brad@childreninthemiddle.com or via fax (972) 704-2912 within three (3) business days of this order. All parties are ordered to cooperate with the Parenting Coordinator in scheduling and completing the requirements for parenting coordination services. The Parenting Coordinator shall select a date for the initial appointment and all parties are ORDERED to appear as directed by the Parenting Coordinator.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Parenting Coordinator may meet with the parties or the children jointly or separately. The Parenting Coordinator shall determine whether appointments will be joint or separate, by teleconference or in person. The dates, duration, frequency, location, and persons in attendance for each session with the Parenting Coordinator shall be left to the discretion of the Parenting Coordinator, who is specifically authorized to notify the Court if any party is failing to comply with the spirit or letter of this order or other orders of the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the expense of the Parenting Coordinator shall be divided between the parties as follows: _____% Petitioner _____% Respondent. The parties will advance the cost of the Parenting Coordinator in equal shares, with the exception that the Parenting Coordinator may assess to each party a pro rata share for time expended for reviewing documentation, out-of-session time, and other individual services. The Court deems these payments be taxed as costs of suit. The parties are ORDERED to pay their respective portions of the initial retainer within seven (7) days of the signing of this Order and upon receipt of any future invoices or bills from the Parenting Coordinator.

IT IS ORDERED that the parenting coordinator shall comply with the Ethical Guidelines for Mediators as adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas (Misc. Docket No. 05 -91 07, June 13, 2005). Failure to comply with the guidelines will be grounds for removal of the parenting coordinator.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Parenting Coordinator shall have the following responsibilities and the authority to take such steps as necessary to carry out their responsibilities. The Parenting Coordinator shall assist the parties in minimizing child-related conflicts between the parents and resolving issues related to parenting or other family issues. The parenting coordinator's duties are limited to matters that will aid the parties in the following areas:

1. identifying disputed issues;
2. reducing misunderstandings;
3. clarifying priorities;
4. exploring possibilities for problem solving;
5. developing methods of collaboration in parenting;
6. understanding parenting plans and reaching agreement about parenting issues to be included in a parenting plan;
7. complying with the court's order regarding conservatorship or possession of and access to the child;
8. implementing parenting plans;
9. obtaining training regarding problem solving, conflict management, and parenting skills; and
10. settling disputes regarding parenting issues and reaching a proposed joint resolution or statement of intent regarding these disputes.

In performing these duties, the parenting coordinator shall comply with the standard of care that applies to the parenting coordinator's professional license. In order to carry out the responsibilities outlined above the Parenting Coordinator is specifically instructed and authorized to:

- assist the parties and the children to promote the children's rights of access to both parents and to protect the children's best interest in general in compliance with the previous orders of this court;
- communicate with the parties, children, health care providers, psychological providers and any other third parties as deemed necessary by the Parenting Coordinator; and
- when beneficial, recommend to the parents that one or both or the subject child(ren) avail themselves of appropriate community resources, including, but not limited to, random drug

screens, formal parenting classes, individual psychotherapy, child therapy, or family counseling.

The parenting coordinator may not maintain Ex Parte communication with either attorney or the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the parties:

- shall cooperate with the Parenting Coordinator and shall execute any and all authorizations requested by the Parenting Coordinator to enable the Parenting Coordinator to obtain information about the children, the parties, caretakers, or members of either party's household;
- shall complete assignments, such as homework between sessions, as directed by the Parenting Coordinator;
- shall set up and maintain an ourfamilywizard.com account prior to the initial parenting facilitation session to allow the parenting Coordinator to monitor communications;
- shall direct any unresolved disagreements regarding the child to the Parenting Coordinator within 14 days of the disagreement before seeking court action, unless a child's safety is jeopardized. The Parenting Coordinator will work with both parents to resolve the conflict and, if necessary, will recommend an appropriate resolution to the parties and/or their legal counsel. If a joint resolution is unable to be reached following the appointment with the parenting Coordinator, either party may seek the court's intervention for resolution;
- shall contact the Parenting Coordinator between sessions only in writing. The assistance provided by the Parenting Coordinator is not intended to be a crisis intervention service;
- shall notify the Parenting Coordinator in writing within 24 hours of any changes in their contact information, legal representation, ability to access ourfamilywizard communications and/or email, residency, incarceration status, change in access to the subject children, relationships status, or occupants of their home.

Parenting coordination is private, confidential, and privileged, except as provided by applicable law. IT IS ORDERED that the parenting coordinator shall not be a witness, and the parenting coordinator's records may not be subpoenaed or used as evidence. Nothing in this order shall serve to release the parenting coordinator from the legal obligation to report child, elder, or disability abuse.

IT IS ORDERED that no subpoenas, citation, writs, or other process shall be served at or near the location of any parenting coordination session on any person entering, leaving, or attending any parenting coordination session.

The appointment of the parenting coordinator does not divest the Court of its exclusive jurisdiction to determine issues of conservatorship, support, parenting time or the authority to exercise management and control of this suit. Accordingly, the parenting coordinator may not modify any order, judgement, or decree.

Referral to parenting coordination is not a substitute for trial, and the case may be tried if not settled or agreed to continue in parenting coordination or other intervention service. The Court shall remove the parenting coordinator on the request and agreement of all parties, on the request of the parenting coordinator, on the motion of a party if good cause is shown or if the parenting coordinator ceases to satisfy the minimum qualifications required by section 153.610 (as) of the Texas Family Code.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Parenting Coordinator shall submit a written report regarding the status of this case to the court and attorneys of record as deemed appropriate by the parenting coordinator and at the request of either attorney or the Court. The report of the parenting coordinator to the Court is limited to a statement of whether the parenting coordination should or should not continue.

Signed on this _____ day of _____, 200____.

Judge Presiding