CAUSE NO. _____

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

ORDER APPOINTING PARENTING FACILITATOR

IT IS ORDERED that Bradley S. Craig, LMSW-IPR, CFLE is appointed as parenting facilitator. The Court finds that there is good cause shown for appointment of a parenting facilitator pursuant to section 153.6051 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 153.6101 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/ParentingFacilitation.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 Facilitator in scheduling and completing the requirements for parenting facilitation services. The Parenting Facilitator shall select a date for the initial appointment and all parties are ORDERED to appear as directed by the Parenting Facilitator and thereafter follow all logistical instructions (regarding meeting times, meeting places, meeting participants, meeting rules, etc.) given by Bradley Craig..

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Parenting Facilitator may meet with the parties or the children jointly or separately at the discretion of the Parenting Facilitator. The Parenting Facilitator 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 Facilitator shall be left to the discretion of the Parenting Facilitator, 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 Facilitator shall be divided between the parties as follows: _____% Petitioner _____% Respondent. The parties will advance the cost of the Parenting Facilitator in equal shares, with the exception that the Parenting Facilitator 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 Facilitator.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Parenting Facilitator shall have the following responsibilities and the authority to take such steps as necessary to carry out their responsibilities. The Parenting Facilitator shall assist the parties in minimizing child-related conflicts between the parents and resolving issues related to parenting or other family issues. The parenting facilitator'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;
10. settling disputes regarding parenting issues and reaching a proposed joint resolution or statement of intent regarding these disputes; and
11. monitor the parties’ compliance with court orders.

In performing these duties, the parenting facilitator shall comply with the standard of care that applies to the parenting facilitator's professional license. In order to carry out the responsibilities outlined above the Parenting Facilitator is specifically 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 Facilitator;

- utilize employees or contractors to assist the Parenting Facilitation process; 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 facilitator may not maintain Ex Parte communication with either attorney or the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the parties:

- shall cooperate with the Parenting Facilitator and shall execute any and all authorizations requested by the Parenting Facilitator to enable the Parenting Facilitator 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 Facilitator;

- shall set up and maintain an ourfamilywizard.com account prior to the initial parenting facilitation session to allow the parenting facilitator to monitor communications;

- shall direct any unresolved disagreements regarding the child to the Parenting Facilitator within 14 days of the disagreement before seeking court action, unless a child's safety is jeopardized. The Parenting Facilitator will work with both parents to resolve the conflict and, if necessary, will recommend and 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 facilitator, either party may seek the court's intervention for resolution;

- shall contact the Parenting Facilitator between sessions only in writing. The assistance provided by the Parenting Facilitator is not intended to be a crisis intervention service;

- shall notify the Parenting Facilitator 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.

IT IS ORDERED that no information gathered by the Parenting Facilitator, including any conversation between the evaluator and any party, child, therapist, investigator, attorney or collateral source, is confidential or protected by any privilege. Information provided by the parties may be shared with others involved in the Parenting Facilitation (including where necessary and appropriate, children and collateral sources) so that verification of information provided can be sought and so that others are afforded the opportunity to respond to issues raised. The Parenting

Facilitator shall inform any party, child, attorney or collateral source that any information received shall not be confidential or protected by any privilege or discovery. The costs of copying the records shall be borne by the requesting party, should that party desire copies of any portion of the records to be made. This provision does not apply to any unredacted Child Protective Services Records that have been provided to the evaluator which remain confidential pursuant to Texas Administrative Code 700.203 and Texas Human Resources Code 40.005. Parties wanting copies of Child Protective Services Records must either obtain them from the agency directly or request in-camera review by the court.

IT IS ORDERED that the Parenting Facilitator may be required to testify in any proceeding relating to or arising from the parenting facilitator's duties including as to the basis for any recommendation made to the parties that arises from those duties, at the written request of any attorney of record. The requesting party shall be responsible for the Parenting Facilitator's customary and usual fees for testifying and said fees shall be paid or advanced prior to the hearing and payment of said fees shall be a condition precedent to the Parenting Facilitator's required testimony.

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

The appointment of the parenting facilitator 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 facilitator may not modify any order, judgement, or decree.

Referral to parenting facilitation is not a substitute for trial, and the case may be tried if not settled or agreed to continue in parenting facilitation or other intervention service. The Court shall remove the parenting facilitator on the request and agreement of all parties, on the request of the parenting facilitator, on the motion of a party if good cause is shown or if the parenting facilitator ceases to satisfy the minimum qualifications required by section 153.6101 of the Texas Family Code. The parenting facilitator may recommend termination of the service when making a status report.

Notwithstanding any rule, standard of care, or privilege that applies to the parenting facilitator's professional license, a communication made by a participant in parenting facilitation is subject to disclosure and may be offered in any judicial or administrative proceeding, if otherwise admissible under the rules of evidence.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Parenting Facilitator shall submit a written report regarding the status of this case to the court and attorneys of record as deemed appropriate by the parenting facilitator and at the request of either attorney or the Court. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the report may include a recommendation to the parties to implement or clarify provisions of the Court's order that are consistent with the intent of the order and in the best interests of the child. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the report may include any other

information required by the Court but may not include recommendations regarding conservatorship of or possession or access to the subject child(ren).

Signed on this _____ day of _____, 200___.

_____

Judge Presiding