**Superior Court of Washington, County of**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In re:  Petitioner/s *(person/s who started this case)*:    And Respondent/s *(other party/parties)*: | No.  Order Appointing Parenting Evaluator/Investigator  (ORAPPE) |

**Order Appointing Parenting Evaluator/Investigator**

**1.**  A motion to appoint a parenting evaluator/investigator for the children listed below was made by the *(check one):* [ ] Petitioner [ ] Respondent [ ] Court:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Child’s name | Age | Child’s name | Age |
| 1. |  | 4. |  |
| 2. |  | 5. |  |
| 3. |  | 6. |  |

**2.** The court finds it is in the best interest of the children listed in **1** to appoint a parenting evaluator/investigator. The court has authority to make this appointment under *(check one):*

[ ] divorce (dissolution) law, Ch. 26.09 RCW. [ ] parentage law, Ch. 26.26 RCW.

[ ] non-parental custody law, Ch. 26.10 RCW. [ ] domestic violence law, Ch. 26.50 RCW.

* The court orders:

**3.** *(Name):*  is appointed as a parenting evaluator/ investigator for the children listed in **1** above.

**4.** **Duties**

The evaluator/investigator is ordered to investigate and file a report only on the issues checked below, unless the court approves investigation into other issues *(check all that apply):*

[ ] All issues related to making a parenting plan for these children

[ ] All issues related to deciding who the legal parents are for these children

[ ] Whether genetic testing should be done to decide who the legal parents are

[ ] Whether the children’s names should be changed

[ ] Abandonment or neglect by [ ] Petitioner [ ] Respondent

[ ] Criminal history of [ ] Pet. [ ] Resp. [ ] Other:

[ ] Domestic violence of [ ] Pet. [ ] Resp. [ ] Other:

[ ] Mental health issues of [ ] Pet. [ ] Resp. [ ] Other:

[ ] Physical health issues of [ ] Pet. [ ] Resp. [ ] Other:

[ ] Sexual abuse allegations against [ ] Pet. [ ] Resp. [ ] Other:

[ ] Substance abuse of [ ] Pet. [ ] Resp. [ ] Other:

[ ] For cases about *changing* a parenting/custody order: whether the children have been integrated into the home of the parent who has less time under the current order.

[ ] Other:

[ ] Any other issues discovered that could affect the **safety** of the children.

**5.** **Report**

The Evaluator/Investigator’s report must include:

* Facts about the issues listed in **4** above.
* The children’s preferences for the parenting plan (if they stated any),
* Any facts about whether the children stated their preferences voluntarily, and
* Any facts about the children’s level of understanding.

The report may include recommendations based on the investigation.

***Deadline!*** Unless the court extends the deadline, the report must be filed and served on all parties by *(date)*  , which is at least 60 days before the trial.

The parties (or their lawyers, if any) have the right to inspect and copy the Evaluator/Investigator’s file of data gathered during the investigation, including the names and addresses of everyone the Evaluator/Investigator consulted. *Exception:* information in the Evaluator/Investigator’s file that is confidential by law or sealed by a court shall **not** be shared with the parties or their lawyers.

**6.** **Access to the children and information**

The Evaluator/Investigator is allowed reasonable access to the children, and to all records and people with information that affects the children, including:

* Child care providers
* Physical and mental health care providers
* Schools and other educational institutions
* Law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, and the Department of Social and Health Services (or equivalent agencies if outside Washington)

*Note: agencies may withhold or black out legally protected parts of requested information.*

All parties must give the Evaluator/Investigator copies of court papers as requested by the Evaluator/Investigator.

**7.** **Release of information**

The signatures of parties or children age 12 or older below mean they give permission to the agencies and professionals listed in **6** above to share information about themselves and their children with the Evaluator/Investigator.

**8.** **Confidentiality**

The Evaluator/Investigator will:

* Have access to all Superior Court and Juvenile Court files related to his/her duties, including sealed and confidential documents. *Exception:* The Evaluator/Investigator will not have access to information sealed under RCW 13.50.050(7);
* Keep confidential any sealed and confidential information (unless his or her duties as evaluator/investigator require otherwise);
* Tell the court if his/her report includes any sealed or confidential information; and
* File his or her report in two parts: one public and one sealed as required by GR 22.

Any party or the Evaluator/Investigator may ask the court to make confidential any reports or documents placed in the file, if there is a good reason to do so.

**9.** **Fees**

The Evaluator/Investigator’s hourly fee is $ . The Evaluator/Investigator may not charge more than a total of $ without court review and approval.

The Evaluator/Investigator’s fees will be paid as follows *(check one):*

[ ] % paid by Petitioner

% paid by Respondent

% paid by *(specify):*

[ ] Other:

**10.** **Appointment Ends**

The Evaluator/Investigator’s appointment ends when s/he is discharged by the court or earlier if:

[ ] the final *Parenting Plan* or *Residential Schedule* is signed by the court.

[ ] other *(specify):*

**11.** **Other orders (if any):**

**Ordered.**

*Date Judge or Commissioner*

**Petitioner and Respondent or their lawyers fill out below:***A party’s signature authorizes release of information as described in* ***7*** *above.*

This document *(check any that apply)*: This document *(check any that apply)*:

[ ] is an agreement of the parties [ ] is an agreement of the parties

[ ] is presented by me [ ] is presented by me

[ ] may be signed by the court without notice to me [ ] may be signed by the court without notice to me

*Petitioner signs here* ***or*** *lawyer signs here + WSBA # Respondent signs here* ***or*** *lawyer signs here + WSBA #*

*Print Name Date Print Name Date*

**Children age 12 or older sign below to authorize release of information as described in 7**:

*Child signs here Print name Date*

*Other child signs here Print name Date*