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.

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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

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- 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):* _____

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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_