

SANTA ROSA COUNTY
SHARED PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

1. Each parent has been given shared parental responsibility. This means:
 - A. Both parents shall communicate so that major decisions that affect the child(ren) shall be made in consultation with each other. Said decisions include, but are not limited to, education, discipline, religion, medical, and the general parenting of the child(ren).
 - B. Each parent shall diligently remember to encourage and promote, between the other parent and child(ren), good relations, love and affection, spending time with and giving attention to the other parent when that parent has the child(ren). Neither parent shall obstruct, impede or interfere with the other parent's right to associate with and enjoy the company of the minor child(ren), unless there is a court order that prohibits such contact by the other parent.
 - C. Each parent shall have access to records and information about the minor child(ren) including, but not limited to, medical, dental and school records. Each parent, where possible shall independently obtain this information. When this information is not readily available to the other parent, each parent is encouraged to obtain and share this information with the other parent. If there is a cost of obtaining information for the other parent, that parent must pay the cost to the other parent before that parent has a duty to obtain the information.
 - D. Unless otherwise provided by a court order, the parent enrolling the child(ren) in school shall list both parents on the student registration card(s) or other document(s) required by the school to allow either parent to pick the child(ren) up from school or check the child(ren) out of school. Absent an emergency or the consent of the other parent, a parent should pick up or check out the child(ren) only on days assigned to that parent under the parties' time sharing schedule.
 - E. Neither parent shall in the presence of or around the child(ren) make any disparaging remarks about the other parent or call the other parent by an obnoxious or offensive name, use slang or curse words when referring to the other parent, or ask the child(ren) about the other parent's private life. Any feelings of ill will, dislike, hatred, lack of respect, or anger held by one parent against the other or held by both parents, shall not be exhibited in the presence of or around the child(ren). The relationship between the parents shall be as respectful and courteous as possible, when dealing with matters relating to the child(ren).

- F. Each parent has a duty to communicate directly with the child(ren) concerning his or her relationship with the child(ren) to the extent warranted by the child(ren)'s age and maturity. Neither parent can expect the other parent to act as a "go between" or "buffer" between the other parent and the child(ren). For example, if parenting time is missed or changed by a parent and the child(ren) asks why, that parent should discuss this with the child(ren).
- G. Both parents shall be entitled to participate in and attend activities in which the child(ren) is/are involved, such as religious activities, school programs, lunch with the child(ren) at school, sports events and other activities and important school and social events in which the child(ren) participate(s). A school's policy may supersede a parent's right to attend certain activities. Each parent has the duty to independently obtain knowledge of and information about these events. If information is exclusively or uniquely known to one parent, then that parent has the duty to timely inform the other parent, within a reasonable period of time before the event.
- H. The child(ren)'s legal surname (last name) shall not be changed except by court order. The child(ren) shall be referred to by the child(ren)'s legal surname in all proceedings (including but not limited to: school, medical, religious, day care records, etc.) and occasions (including but not limited to social events, religious events, school activities, family gatherings, at home, work or play). While legal stepparents often participate significantly in the life of the child(ren) and bonds of love and affection are formed, enjoyed and encouraged, each parent must remember that the stepparent is **NOT** to overshadow or displace the role of the other parent in the child(ren)'s life. While it is acceptable for the child(ren) to use a respectful name commonly associated with the role of a parent when talking to or about the stepparent, that name shall not replace the name of "Mother" or "Father" (or common derivative, e.g. mom, dad) used by the child(ren) to refer to the child(ren)'s parents.
- I. Each party has a right to confer with the other pertaining to all major decisions affecting the welfare of their child(ren) (unless otherwise prohibited by Court order, entered after the Court order incorporating this schedule, for example: Domestic Violence Restraining Order). Both parents shall confer so that the advantages and disadvantages of all major decisions affecting the welfare of the child(ren) will be determined jointly. Such major decisions may include, but are not limited to, the education, medical and dental care, religious training, and discipline of the minor child(ren). For example, this duty would include an obligation to discuss a decision to remove a child from public school in order to enroll a child in private school, it may include allowing a child to participate in a school related activity, e.g., field trip. It

would not include a decision to have a child's hair trimmed. In the event the parties are unable to agree on a decision affecting the welfare of the minor child(ren) and time does not permit a hearing before the Court, then the primary residential parent (PRP) has the right to make the decision and the secondary residential parent (SRP) may file a petition within a reasonable time to review the decision.

This Shared Parental Responsibility Statement is a general order of court. Some cases contain Court orders that are unique and specific to that case. If in your case there is a court order that directly or indirectly conflicts with any provision of this Statement, you MUST obey that court order unless or until the court expressly instructs you to do otherwise.

Santa Rosa County Circuit Court, Family Law Division
2007 Revision