

Child Custody Stipulation Examples [Templates for Legal Use]



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Attorney's Note

A divorce or other family law order may be the most important document in a person's life. Yet most people read [less than a third](#) of these documents before they sign them. "People" includes clients, judges, and alas, lawyers.

The process usually begins with lawyers. Many family law attorneys practice in large firms - which, in my view, are little more than divorce factories. They often tap a few keys and print documents without giving the matter much thought. At the end of a divorce, they're just anxious to get it over with.

When proposed divorce orders go to clients, they too are anxious to get the matter over with. Furthermore, they assume their lawyers thoroughly reviewed these documents, so further review is pointless. At the prove-up or other final hearing, judges don't read these documents, either (in their defense: They wouldn't know what, if anything, is missing).

Here are some pointers to avoid this temptation:

- *Use personal names instead of designations (petitioner, mother, etc.).*
- *Additionally, don't use the universal find/replace function. Replace each name or custom field individually.*
 - *To help you out, we highlighted fields that need to be edited in the templates below.*

These child custody stipulation examples should be used in conjunction with the accompanying article posted on this subject.

Day-to-Day Parenting

IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that, during their respective parenting time periods, [MOTHER] and [FATHER] shall adhere to the following daily schedule. The Court finds that these provisions are in the best interests of the children.

The children must be out of bed no later than one (1) hour before the tardy bell rings.

The parent must provide breakfast and ensure that the children:

- A. Are appropriately dressed,
- B. Have all necessary supplies,
- C. Are healthy enough to attend school, and
- D. Have brushed their teeth, combed their hair, and attended to other essential hygiene and grooming matters.

The children must be on school property no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the tardy bell rings.

The parent must make arrangements to pick up the children promptly at the time of their discharge from school or extracurricular activities.

To the greatest extent possible, children must finish any homework before dinner.

The children shall have an 8:00 p.m. curfew and 9:00 p.m. bedtime on school nights. On non-school nights, these times are extended to 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Screen time limitations are as follows:

- 1. Total two (2) hours per day on school nights and four (4) hours per day on non-school nights,
- 2. No social media browsing not previously approved by both parents, and
- 3. No age-appropriate television shows or movies (e.g. no R-rated movies for children under 17).

All health and safety measures, such as the presence of alcohol or guns in the house, tattoos and body piercing, and appropriate extracurricular activities, must be approved by both parents.

Parenting Time and Visitation

IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that, in addition to the parenting time divisions included elsewhere in this document, [MOTHER] and [FATHER] shall adhere to the following stipulations during their respective parenting time periods. The Court finds that these provisions are in the best interests of the children.

The children must be ready for pickup no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the agreed-upon pickup time.

The parenting time exchange shall take place at [the parent's living room, the sidewalk in front of the parent's dwelling, or the public place (restaurant, park, etc.) located at XYZ].

No later than one (1) hour after parenting time ends, the parent must furnish a written parenting time summary to the other parent and, if appropriate, the other parent's lawyer. The parenting time summary must include an hour-by-hour timeline of events that transpired during the previous parenting time period.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that the other parent shall have the right of first refusal for any babysitting needs.

Moving and Travel

IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that [MOTHER] and [FATHER] shall adhere to the following stipulations at all times. The Court finds that these provisions are in the best interests of the children.

The children shall reside in [list counties, i.e. Dallas County, Tarrant County, Denton County, Collin County, Kaufman County, Rockwall County, or Ellis County].

(Editor's Note: This list encompasses Dallas County and all contiguous counties, as an example, so please list the counties relevant to your location. As mentioned in the accompanying article, specificity is your friend in these cases.)

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that, if any child travels outside [previously listed counties] for any reason, the sponsoring parent must inform the other parent in writing at least thirty (30) days before the scheduled departure. The notice shall include the following:

- A. Destination,

- B. Departure date,
- C. Reason for the trip,
- D. Estimated number of children travelling,
- E. Mode of transportation,
- F. Name(s) and, if possible, contact information for adult(s) who will accompany the children, and
- G. Anticipated return date.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that no child the subject of this suit may travel outside Texas without the written consent of both parents.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that the following persons are responsible adults for all purposes:

- A. Name and contact information
- B. Continue as necessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that all persons not designated as responsible adults are non-responsible adults for all purposes.

Dispute Resolution

IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that, in the event of any disagreement over any provisions in this order or any subsequent order of this or another Court, [MOTHER] and [FATHER] shall adhere to the following stipulations at all times. The Court finds that these provisions are in the best interests of the children.

The parents must exchange emails, text messages, or other written communications pertinent to the dispute in an effort to reach a resolution. Attorneys and other interested parties, such as social workers, must be copied on these communications. Any agreed solution must be reduced to writing, endorsed by both parties in writing, and approved by a court of competent jurisdiction.

If, after a reasonable number of exchanges, the parents are unable to resolve the dispute, it is ORDERED that [NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION] is authorized to review relevant information and recommend a compromise or other solution. [NAME]'s recommendation is nonbinding. Any agreed solution must be reduced to writing,

endorsed by both parties in writing, and approved by a court of competent jurisdiction.

If, after a reasonable number of exchanges, the parties are unable to reach a resolution with [NAME]'s assistance, either party is authorized to file an appropriate motion with a court of competent jurisdiction.

Healthcare and Lifestyle Stipulations

IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that [MOTHER] and [FATHER] shall adhere to the following stipulations during their respective parenting time periods. The Court finds that these provisions are in the best interests of the children.

(Insert brief, specific stipulations, such as the children must see Dr. Y in non-emergency situations, the children must visit a designated facility in emergency situations, the children shall attend synagogue regularly, the children will not play contact sports until they turn 12, etc.)

BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) Stipulations

(Editor's Note: This template is intended to work in conjunction with the [BACtrack View](#) alcohol monitoring system).

DEFINITIONS

A "non-compliant test" is a BACtrack View test result submitted by [TESTER] that is above the BAC threshold of [BAC THRESHOLD], a BACtrack View test that [TESTER] is scheduled to take, as mandated by the previously described testing schedule, that is determined by [MONITOR] to have been taken by an individual that is not [TESTER], or a BACtrack View test that [TESTER] is scheduled to take, as mandated by the previously described testing schedule, for which he/she refuses to submit his/her video at the time of the test

A "missed test" is any BACtrack View test that [TESTER] is scheduled to take, as mandated by the previously described testing schedule, that he/she does not take within 35 minutes of the scheduled time.

IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that [MOTHER] and [FATHER] shall adhere to the following stipulations at all times. The Court finds that these provisions are in the best interests of the children.

Prior to the start of [TESTER]'s possession of the children, [TESTER] shall enroll in BACtrack View and shall agree to allow [MONITOR] to set the testing schedule, as detailed below, obtain BACtrack View PDF reports, receive alerts of test results, and observe video recordings of each test being taken.

[PAYING PARTY] is responsible for all costs associated with the BACtrack View program for the duration that BACtrack View testing is mandated as a condition of [TESTER]'s right to possession of the children.

[TESTER] shall submit BACtrack View tests according to the following schedule:

- A. Prior to [TESTER]'s parenting time periods, [TESTER] shall submit to scheduled testing within thirty-five (35) minutes of receiving a testing notification from BACtrack View on [TIME] on [DAY(S)]. [TESTER] shall submit to [NUMBER] random tests between [TIME] and [TIME] on [DAY(S)]. [TESTER] shall submit to these random tests within 35 minutes of receiving a testing notification from BACtrack View during the aforementioned times.
- B. During [TESTER]'s parenting time periods, [TESTER] shall comply with scheduled testing within 35 minutes of receiving a testing notification from BACtrack View on [TIME] on [DAY(S)]. [TESTER] shall submit [NUMBER] random tests between [TIME] and [TIME] on [DAY(S)]. [TESTER] shall submit to these random tests within 35 minutes of receiving a testing notification from BACtrack View during the aforementioned times.
- C. The testing period will extend from [START DATE] to [END DATE], or as long as required by the terms of child possession.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that [MONITOR] [may/may not] require [TESTER] to submit to on-demand BACtrack View tests, which are requested outside the regular schedule, at any given time or specifically during the Tester's possession of the children.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that, in the event a BACtrack View test result is non-compliant, [TESTER] shall submit to immediate and additional follow-up testing by BACtrack View within [TIME DURATION] of receiving the "non-compliant" test result.

If the subsequent test indicates a non-drinking event, [MONITOR] agrees to consider the initial "non-compliant" result to be "compliant."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that, if [TESTER] wishes to dispute the validity of a non-compliant test result, [TESTER] shall notify [MONITOR] of their desire to contest

the validity of a non-compliant test within [TIME DURATION] of receiving the “non-compliant” result.

[TESTER] shall initiate an on-demand test in the BACtrack View application within [TIME DURATION] of receiving the “non-compliant” result. If the subsequent on-demand test indicates a non-drinking event, [MONITOR] agrees to consider the initial “non-compliant” result as “compliant.”

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that [MONITOR] shall receive access to any and all alcohol testing results of [TESTER]. [MONITOR] shall be granted any and all access to monitor BACtrack View testing and receive all testing alerts directly from BACtrack View. [TESTER] shall additionally agree to allow [ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER(S)] to receive any and all test alerts, video recordings of each test being taken, and BACtrack View PDF reports.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that [MONITOR] and [TESTER] agree to [PERMIT or NOT PERMIT] access to [TESTER]'s location, as recorded by the BACtrack View application, at the time and date of each submitted test.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that, should the BACtrack View device become damaged or lost while [TESTER] has possession of the children, (specify the procedure for possession of the children).

DISCLAIMERS:

These templates are intended for use by family law attorneys. Please note the following important considerations:

1. **Template Nature:** The templates provided are starting points. They do not cover all possible legal scenarios or variations that may be necessary for specific cases. They must be customized to reflect the particular facts and circumstances of each individual case.
2. **No Legal Advice:** These templates do not constitute legal advice. As a legal professional, you are responsible for ensuring that the content is legally appropriate and compliant with current laws and regulations applicable in the relevant jurisdiction.
3. **Modification Required:** You are encouraged to modify, add, or omit sections to suit the legal needs and preferences of your clients. Each clause should be reviewed and tailored to ensure it meets the specific requirements and objectives of the parties involved.
4. **Review and Validation:** It is recommended that you thoroughly review and validate all provisions with due diligence. Consider consulting with or obtaining approval from colleagues or specialists in family law to ensure that the agreement is robust and enforceable.
5. **Client Communication:** Ensure that all parties involved in the agreement fully understand their rights and obligations as set forth in the document. Clear communication regarding the terms of the agreement is essential for effective implementation and compliance.

By using these templates, you acknowledge and agree that you are responsible for its modification and customization to ensure its suitability and compliance with legal standards and practices. This disclaimer is intended to limit the liability of the provider of these templates and does not replace the necessity for professional judgment and discretion.