



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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July 29, 2021

Honorable Stuart Rabner, Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Hughes Justice Complex  
25 W. Market Street  
P.O. Box 970  
Trenton, NJ 08611

Re: Proposal for Court Rule Addressing Parenting Coordinators

Dear Chief Justice Rabner:

I am pleased to enclose for your consideration a report and proposed Court Rule from the New Jersey State Bar Association's Family Law Section in connection with the appointment of parenting coordinators in family law matters. The report, which has been vetted and endorsed by the Board of Trustees, represents recommendations for a path ahead that reflect extensive research, debate, expertise, and knowledge.

As background, in 2007, the New Jersey Supreme Court created a Parenting Coordination Pilot Program in five vicinages to assist in the resolution of disputes involving custody and parenting time. The 2009-2011 Report of the Supreme Court's Family Practice Committee raised several concerns about the program which resulted in the termination of the pilot program. Nevertheless, parenting coordinators continue to be appointed on an ad hoc basis; however, there is no uniformity in how their role is defined, what authority they are given, and what they are expected to accomplish.

Recognizing the beneficial assistance that a parenting coordinator can provide in contentious circumstances, particularly for the benefit of children caught in the middle of a dispute between their parents, the NJSBA Family Law Executive Committee appointed a Parenting Coordination Task Force to study the issue and make recommendations. The goal was to provide definition, clarity, uniformity, and professionalism to the parenting coordination process. The Task Force met over a period of two years, researched parenting coordination programs in other states, examined the comments and criticisms of the parenting coordination pilot process contained in the 2009-2011 Supreme Court Family Practice Report, and engaged in robust discussion and debate on the issue. The attached report is the culmination of that process.

The crux of the report is a recommendation for a new Court Rule that addresses the appointment of a parenting coordinator. The proposed Court Rule addresses several aspects of the process, including: standards for who may serve as a parenting coordinator; the circumstances under which a parenting coordinator may be appointed; delineating the parenting coordinator's role and goals; establishing continuing training requirements; devising a process for appointment and coordination; addressing a parenting coordinator's retainer agreement and fees; and providing immunity to individuals serving as parenting coordinators for acts performed within that role.

The New Jersey State Bar Association requests the Judiciary consider adoption of the proposed Court Rule to assist litigants, their attorneys, and the Courts in resolving continuing contentious issues in appropriate family law matters for the benefit of all parties and, in particular, the children who are often caught in the middle. I thank you for your attention to this and stand ready to provide any additional information or assistance that may be needed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Domenick Carmagnola".

Domenick Carmagnola, Esq.  
President

/sab

cc: Hon. Glenn A. Grant, P.J.A.D., Acting Administrative Director of the Courts  
Jeralyn L. Lawrence, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect  
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director

**REPORT TO  
THE FAMILY LAW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
FAMILY LAW SECTION  
FROM  
TASK FORCE ON PARENTING COORDINATION**

**APRIL 2021**

## INTRODUCTION

A report to the NJSBA Family Law Section Executive Committee from the Children's Rights Subcommittee addressed numerous issues affecting the lives of children whose parents are in the process of separation and divorce particularly when disputes arise regarding custody and parenting time. That report recommended areas for further study, one of which was parenting coordination, noting the need to address confusion as to how the role is utilized in New Jersey, what it can accomplish, and educating judges and attorneys about the process.

In 2007, the New Jersey Supreme Court authorized the creation of a Parenting Coordination Pilot Program in five vicinages. This was, at least in part, a response to a proposal to create a court rule for the appointment of parenting coordinators. The format used was fashioned after guidelines and forms promulgated by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, an international multi-disciplinary organization committed to conflict resolution for children and families involved in the court system. In 2012, this pilot program was terminated by Notice to the Bar, which rescinded all forms used in the pilot, provided that judges could continue to appoint parenting coordinators, and noted two model orders of appointment provided for guidance only.

Thereafter, judges continued to appoint parenting coordinators; however, many appointments lacked any definition of the role, did not specify the limits of the parenting coordinator's authority, did not describe the process and made appointments of individuals who had no specific parenting coordination experience or training. Judges, lawyers and litigants lacked a clear understanding of the parenting coordination process, had unrealistic expectations for what parenting coordinators could accomplish, and were critical of the process. This was reflected in the 2009-2011 New Jersey Supreme Court Family Practice Committee Report, which raised numerous concerns about parenting coordination.

In the absence of clarity and in light of the criticisms expressed regarding parenting coordination, the Family Law Executive Committee established a Parenting Coordination Task Force (Task Force) to address the use of parenting coordination in New Jersey. As part of that process, the Task Force reviewed the 2009-2011 New Jersey Supreme Court Family Practice Committee Report, which raised several concerns about parenting coordination, collected and reviewed court rules, statutes and guidelines promulgated in other states and countries, reviewed 2005 and 2019 parenting coordination practice guidelines promulgated by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and reviewed the guidelines and forms that had been used in the Parenting Coordination Pilot Program.

Parenting coordination is utilized by judges, lawyers and litigants throughout the State, currently without clear definition of the purpose or guidelines as to the role, the limitations on the scope of authority of the parenting coordinator, and the appropriate qualifications of those who can serve as parenting coordinators. By this report, the Task Force seeks to provide definition, clarity, uniformity and professionalism to the parenting coordination process.

Appendix A to this report is the Task Force response to the 2009-2011 New Jersey Supreme Court Family Practice-Committee Report questions and concerns regarding parenting coordination, in New Jersey. Appendix B is a detailed proposed court rule for the appointment of parenting coordinators and the functioning of the parenting coordination process. Appendix C is a sample Order Appointing Parenting Coordinator.

This report was originally submitted to the Family Law Executive Committee in December 2020. We subsequently received comments from committee members, and the Task Force reconvened to review and discuss those comments, and we made revisions to some of the provisions in both the proposed rule and the proposed form of order to accommodate concerns that were expressed to us.

We would like to acknowledge the considerable effort and contributions made by the members of the Task Force over the past two plus years attending meetings, researching and reviewing materials about parenting coordination from other jurisdictions, engaging in lively discussion and debate about what to recommend, in preparing this report and in returning to the process in order to review and consider feedback provided by members of the Family Law Executive Committee. Thanks to each and every one of them for their dedication to this project and for the substantial time, expertise and knowledge they brought to the process.

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Respectfully submitted.

Amy Wechsler, Chair  
Parenting Coordination Task  
Force

## APPENDIX A

### **Response to Supreme Court Family Law Practice Committee Final Report 2009-2011: Parenting Coordination - Concerns, Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Parenting Coordination Task Force (PCTF) was formed under the auspices of the New Jersey State Bar Association Family Law Section, and was charged by the Family Law Executive Committee to review the practice of Parenting Coordination in New Jersey and provide recommendations regarding adoption of a rule, statute or other guidelines for the practice or parenting coordination in New Jersey.

In reviewing parenting coordination in New Jersey, the Task Force considered the “Concerns, Conclusions and Recommendations” of the New Jersey Supreme Court Family Law Practice Committee (FLPC<sup>1</sup>) as set forth in its Final Report for 2009-2011. The following sets forth the Task Force (TF) responses to the issues raised in the FLPC report.

FLPC Report: Practically, the anecdotal experience of members of the Practice Committee is that parenting coordinators mostly fulfilled the role of interacting with dysfunctional litigants so that they would not need to burden the court with their disputes. Although delegation was not permitted, parenting coordinators practically assumed control over mundane implementation and minor adjustments of parenting plans that became emotionally charged issues in a high conflict family dynamic. Rarely did litigants challenge a recommendation of a parenting coordinator once it was formally made, probably because they believed the court likely would adopt it. In the current landscape in New Jersey, litigants are free to agree and judges are free to order the appointment of anyone as a parenting coordinator, without regard to their qualifications, training or licenses, either before or after an order or agreement for custody is in place. Unlike mediation, there are no court rules regulating any issue pertaining to parenting coordinators, as the Supreme Court has determined the adoption of a rule pertaining to parenting coordinators is not appropriate.

TF Comment/Question: The Task Force understood that, several years ago, the Supreme Court established the pilot program in lieu of adopting a rule at that time. We are not aware that, since the pilot program was terminated, a subsequent decision has been made not to adopt a rule, or the basis on which the Court would have made a determination.

FLPC Report: The only formal controls on parenting coordinators pursuant to the recommendations of the Conference of Family Presiding Judges are the parameters of the currently approved model order of appointment, which references sources of information the parenting coordinator may access, communication with the parenting coordinator by litigants and counsel, provisions for termination, grievance, compensation, and allocation of fees.

The Practice Committee is concerned by the unregulated nature of parenting coordination. Pursuant to the Conference of Family Presiding Judges' recommendations, there is no limitation on who may serve as a parenting coordinator. There are no prescribed qualifications for parenting coordinators by way of education, training or experience. There is no limitation on the topics they may consider. As originally conceived, parenting coordinators were to take pressure

off the courts by assisting high conflict families to resolve implementation issues with respect to parenting plans. They were not to determine custody or make recommendations concerning same, but to facilitate people to negotiate simple issues dealing with implementation of a plan already agreed upon and monitoring potential small changes to accommodate special situations and emergencies. Those limitations no longer formally exist.

TF Comment: The Task Force concurs with the concerns as expressed and notes further that this is precisely why we urge the adoption of a rule along with guidelines, training, and eligibility requirements.

FLPC Report: The Practice Committee also is concerned about the scope of authority that parenting coordinators have co-opted for themselves in the engagement letters that are presented to litigants who use them.

TF Comment: The Task Force has a similar concern and believes this concern can be addressed by a rule clarifying what parenting coordinators are precluded from doing (i.e., they may not determine custody, make significant non-temporary changes to the parenting schedule). Additionally, it should be noted that the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) has developed Guidelines for Parenting Coordination that provide clarity on this issue. The AFCC "is an interdisciplinary, international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict. AFCC promotes a collaborative approach to serving the needs of children among those who work in and with family law systems, encouraging education, research and innovation and identifying best practices." [afccnet.org/About/Mission-Vision-Values](http://afccnet.org/About/Mission-Vision-Values).

FLPC Report: It is not unusual for engagement letters to authorize and require litigants to accept services of new professionals that the parenting coordinator believes should be introduced into their lives whether they want it or not.

TF Comment: While we appreciate this concern, our review of the engagement letters indicates that such a letter cannot require a litigant to accept the services of a new professional, but instead, can only recommend the involvement of a new professional. It should be further noted that per R. 5:8B of the New Jersey Court Rules, a *guardian ad litem*, who has been appointed by the Court, may "obtain the assistance of independent experts, on leave of court" and may also "obtain the assistance of a lawyer for the child (Rule 5L:8A) on leave of court." In this way, the parenting coordinator's recommendation is analogous to an approach that was expressly approved (and incorporated into the Court Rule) regarding the *guardian ad litem*.

FLPC Report: Parenting coordinators also are a financial burden for many because they create another expense pertaining to the divorce process, which continues even after the divorce is completed. There are other concerns as well and we suggest the following additions to the model order of appointment, which have been incorporated into the proposed model orders.

TF Comment: We are also sensitive to the costs of parenting coordination. However, the relative costs must be considered. For example, when issues of disagreement arise post-divorce, there are often mandatory mediation requirements. While mediation has an attendant cost, it often proves

less costly than post-judgment litigation. Similarly, post-judgment parenting coordination may have an attendant cost, but it is likely less costly than post-judgment litigation. Additionally, the costs of the parenting coordination process are shared by the parties, whereas the costs of litigation are the responsibility of each party, individually. Moreover, just as with "best interests" custody evaluations and *guardian ad litem* assignments, the costs of parenting coordination must be viewed in the context of the costs of litigation without the involvement of such professionals {when the involvement of the professionals cannot help the parties avoid litigation). We also agree that the Court should consider the parties' financial circumstances before appointment of a parenting coordinator. As a final matter, we ask that all costs be considered in evaluating this matter. For example, the cost of litigation to a self-represented party may come in the form of lost wages. Parenting coordination can potentially assist the self-represented party in avoiding the litigation (and the lost wages) by making recommendations that effectuate the child's best interests on permitted subjects.

FLPC Report: The time period for the parenting coordinator's appointment should be clearly defined and circumscribed. At the end of a fixed time period, during which the coordinators either will have been successful educating family members to deal with conflicts themselves or failed in that role, the service term should end. Parenting coordinators should not become third party members of families for the duration of a child's unemancipated status.

TF Comment: We agree with the recommendation that the time period for the parenting coordinator's appointment should be defined and limited. We submit that the duration of a parenting coordination appointment should be established in the order of appointment with the term set at the discretion of the Court or agreement by the parties. Furthermore, we submit that a parenting time appointment may only be extended by an agreement of the parties, along with the agreement of the parenting coordinator or by way of an order of the Court. The duration of the appointment period would commence from the date the parenting coordinator is retained by the parties, not as of the date of the order. This is because there is sometimes a gap of many weeks or even months from the entry of an order and the commencement of the parenting coordination process.

FLPC Report: There should be a "limitation on the "ability of a parenting coordinator to require parties to sign releases and obtain information that would otherwise be privileged to each parent. If there is an objection, the court should resolve it. The parents' privileges and rights should be distinguished from the parenting coordinator's ability to access otherwise private information pertaining to the children.

TF Comment: The Task Force concurs with this recommendation. The parenting coordinator cannot mandate the execution of releases. If there are any objections surrounding the execution of a release, we agree that the court should resolve the issue. We wish to note that in Rule 5:8B(a), a *guardian ad litem* has the following duties: "(1) interviewing the children and parties; (2) Interviewing other persons possessing relevant information, and (3) Obtaining relevant documentary evidence." To assist the parties in resolving their dispute and make a fair and appropriate recommendation, the parenting coordinator may need to interview people possessing relevant information and obtain relevant documentary evidence. The Task Force believes that the issue of authorizations can and should be addressed when determining the need for a parenting

coordinator. If there are issues related to the child's healthcare, or education, the court can include the requirement for related authorizations, thereby limiting the return to court to make these determinations later.

FLPC Report: The order must make clear that parenting coordinators, absent consent of the parties to the contrary, cannot revise custody agreements or parenting plans, or conduct parenting or custody evaluations or make recommendations regarding those issues.

TF Comment: The Task Force concurs with this recommendation, with the understanding that it refers to the basic on-going custody and parenting time arrangements, and not to temporary or minor modifications, or clarification of provisions that are confusing or unclear.

FLPC Report: The issue of termination of a parenting coordinator's services or grievance procedure and protocol should remain, but those provisions should be applicable to the role of a parenting coordinator during the term of the appointment. At the conclusion of the term of the appointment, the parenting coordinator's services are over, unless the parties agree that the parenting coordinator should be reappointed. Parenting coordination either will have been successful in accomplishing what was the primary goal to begin with (to assist parties and to teach the parties how to function and co-parent either with reduced need, or no need for services of third parties), or not. If it has not been successful, unless the parties agree to the contrary, then the Practice Committee believes that disputes about what should happen to children should be determined by a court on proper presentation of evidence. Courts make decisions according to law and an aggrieved party has a right to review by that tribunal.

TF Comment: The Task Force concurs with this recommendation.

FLPC Report: Engagement letters of parenting coordinators should extend authority no further than the terms of the order of appointment that the parties agree upon.

TF Comment: The Task Force concurs with this recommendation, and submits further that parenting coordinators should be appointed by detailed court orders to which their engagement letters are attached, thereby eliminating or, at a minimum, greatly reducing the likelihood that there is a discrepancy between the order of appointment and the engagement letter.

FLPC Report: Most importantly, parenting coordinators who work with litigants will be more successful if parents are confident in them. The selection of a parenting coordinator should occur after each litigant has had an opportunity to meet the proposed coordinator. If one of the coordinators' responsibilities is to teach and to foster communication and make recommendations based upon disputes that exist, then the litigants must at least start the process, before the coordinator deals with any specific issue, of trusting the parent coordinator. A relationship where there is bad chemistry from the beginning because of personality conflicts between the coordinator and one litigant is doomed to failure and is doomed to cause one litigant to feel the coordinator does not like him or her.

Traditionally, in New Jersey, parenting coordinators are selected by the lawyers who try to learn as much as they can about the proposed coordinator from their contacts and network before agreeing to a specific person. They try to match their perception of the personality of a client they represent with the coordinator being considered. The goal, however, is not to match the lawyers' personality with the coordinator's; it is to match the litigant with the coordinator. Therefore, the Practice Committee recommends that coordinators not be appointed or engaged unless there is an opportunity for each litigant to meet with the coordinator, and that the litigant must pay for this introductory time. The Practice Committee makes no recommendation as to whether that meeting should be a joint meeting or an individual meeting. If a meeting is not practical, then at least a telephone consultation should occur.

TF Comment: The Task Force understands this recommendation. Concern exists, however, in that parties who are in need of parenting coordination are often in high conflict situations. Additionally, concern exists in that the recommendation does not include any time limitations placed on the parties in terms of when they can interview a parenting coordinator or the number of interviews a party may conduct with different parenting coordinators in the process. Without such limitations, the process can be abused, especially by a party who is seeking to avoid parenting coordination and who is seeking to avoid addressing the situation that warranted the appointment of a parenting coordinator. Without time limits and without clear end dates, by the time the parenting coordinator is agreed upon (if ever) the issue that warranted the appointment of the coordinator may be moot or may have worsened to the point that the child is suffering extreme harm. As such, the Task Force is not in favor of the adoption of this recommendation. If such a recommendation is considered, clear time limits should be imposed to avoid abuse of the process and the potential of harm to the child.

FLPC Report: The Practice Committee believes people who desire to use parenting coordination as a form of alternative dispute resolution should be able to do so. They should be able to select whomever they trust and agree to whatever terms they determine appropriate in connection with the utilization of the parenting coordinator's services. They should be able to refer to the parenting coordinator any issue pertaining to their family that they voluntarily agree to do. The Practice Committee has doubts about whether litigants should be compelled to use parenting coordination if they do not wish to use it. Many members of the Practice Committee do not believe parties should be compelled to use parenting coordinators unless they agree. A minority are less certain of this limitation.

TF Comment: The Task Force believes that, as a general matter, parents should have input into the selection of their parenting coordinator. The cases that warrant appointment of a parenting coordinator, however, frequently involve high conflict parents, who often are unable to agree on matters involving their children. When they cannot agree, the court should appoint someone to serve in the role of parenting coordinator. As to determining the terms of the engagement, this may be appropriate in terms of the scope of the assignment, but not as to all terms. For example, as set forth above, there should be limits on the role of the parenting coordinator. Additionally, parenting coordinators should not be required to negotiate their fees, or their office protocols based on the requests of the parties. Clarity should be afforded to both the parties and the parenting coordinator. For this reason, the Task Force recommends use of a standard order of appointment, and engagement letters that mirror those orders with respect to the parenting

coordination process, while not interfering with the parenting coordinators office procedures.

FLPC Report: The Conference of Family Presiding Judges has determined that parenting coordination should continue to be a tool available to the court. The Practice Committee recommends that, when a court appoints a parenting coordinator, it should be pursuant to the revised model order to address the concerns the Practice Committee has identified in this report. If parenting coordination is to be implemented only through consent, then the model order of appointment with the consent provision (Attachment B) should be used, unless the parties agree to modify it to suit their requirements. If the Supreme Court determines that parenting coordinators can be designated by the court without a litigant's consent, then the Practice Committee recommends using the alternative model order of appointment (Attachment C). The Practice Committee recommends that all future parenting coordinator appointments by the court should be made by consent using the attached model order of appointment pursuant to a directive issued by the AOC.

TF Comment: The Task Force concurs that parenting coordination should continue to be an option available to courts for families in conflict. The pilot program guidelines and model rules were fashioned after those promulgated by the AFCC in 2005. Those guidelines have been followed, tested, and revised based on the experience of legal and mental health professionals nationwide. The Task Force proposes adoption of AFCC's revised guidelines and model orders to the extent these fit New Jersey law and procedures. We urge adoption of a rule that would require judges to enter orders consistent with these guidelines and model orders, thereby establishing uniformity and appropriate expectations when making appointments.

APPENDIX B  
Parenting Coordinator Assignments - Proposed Court Rule

I. A Parenting Coordinator Is a qualified neutral mental health or legal professional with family mediation training and experience who is appointed by the court (as either the court requires or the parties agree), to assist parents who are unable to resolve disputes that arise regarding the health, education, general welfare, and process of raising their children. These individuals tend to rely on courts or other third-party professionals for recommendations or directives for resolution of such disputes and may struggle with communication with one another regarding their children. The role of the Parenting Coordinator is to implement the parenting plan by facilitating in a timely manner the resolution of day-to-day parenting issues that frequently arise within the context of family life when parents are separated or divorced. The court may appoint a Parenting Coordinator at any time during a case involving minor children after a parenting plan (either temporary or as a final order) has been established and when the parties cannot resolve these issues on their own.

The Parenting Coordinator's goals are: to aid the parties in monitoring and effectuating the existing parenting plan; reduce misunderstandings and miscommunication between the parents; help reduce the amount of litigation filed with the Family Part; clarify priorities of the parents and children; explore possibilities for compromise; and develop methods of communication that promote collaboration and cooperation in parenting.

The Parenting Coordinator should, whenever practical, seek to facilitate decision-making between the parties or to make recommendations when the parties cannot agree. The Parenting Coordinator should provide guidance and direction to the parties with the primary focus on the child(ren)'s best interests, by reducing conflict and fostering sound decisions that will aid positive child development.

Parenting Coordination is generally appropriate for parents engaged in high conflict co-parenting dynamics who are unable to resolve many, or all, of the disputes that arise between them regarding their children's health, education and welfare, and who tend to rely on the courts or other third-party professionals to resolve such disputes for them, in instances involving intimate partner violence (IPV) the role of the parenting coordinator will be limited by the constraints of any domestic violence restraining orders as well as the existence of IPV when no restraining orders have been issued.

II. Parenting Coordination Guidelines

A. Assignment of the Parenting Coordinator

1. The court, after finding good cause or upon agreement by the parties, may appoint a Parenting Coordinator in any action involving parenting responsibility or parenting time of a minor child. The appointment may be made at any stage in the proceeding, but only after a temporary or final

custody or parenting plan has been established. Parenting Coordinators do not serve as custody or parenting plan evaluators.

2. In cases in which an active restraining order has been issued pursuant to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (or equivalent law from another jurisdiction), the court may appoint a Parenting Coordinator if both parties consent, pursuant to an order that complies with the limitations of the restraining order.
3. Either the parties may agree to a specific person to serve as Parenting Coordinator (subject to approval by the court) or the court may appoint the Parenting Coordinator.

B. Authority of the Court

1. The appointment of a Parenting Coordinator does not in any way diminish the court's jurisdiction to determine the fundamental issues of custody, parenting time or support, and its authority to exercise management and control of the case. The court may order the appointment of a Parenting Coordinator on application by either party, on a joint application, or on its own motion.

C. Authority of the Parenting Coordinator

1. The Order of Appointment shall authorize the Parenting Coordinator to facilitate agreement between the parties.
2. The Order of Appointment shall authorize the Parenting Coordinator to make recommendations to the parties in the event the parties cannot reach an agreement.
3. The Order of Appointment shall indicate whether the Parenting Coordinator's recommendations shall be binding upon the parties, subject to judicial review within a specified time period, whether the recommendation is binding pending judicial review and adoption, or another option within the Court's discretion. The Order of Appointment shall also indicate that if one party does not accept or objects to a recommendation by the Parenting Coordinator, or if one party seeks implementation of a recommendation when the other party refuses to comply, that party may apply to the court, in accordance with the Rules of Court, for a determination of the issue, attaching a copy of the recommendation that is the subject of the application.

4. In accordance with Sections (C)(1)-(3) above, the Order of Appointment may authorize the Parenting Coordinator to address the following issues (which are provided by way of Illustration and not limitation). The Parenting Coordinator shall not be given authority to make recommendations as to custody and parenting time schedules, except as specifically set forth in any order, with any recommendations being limited to minor and/or temporary custodial and parenting time issues that do not substantially alter the parenting plan.
  - a. Time, place and manner of pick-up and drop-off of children;
  - b. Childcare arrangements;
  - c. Minor or temporary alterations in parenting schedules for weeknight, weekend, holidays, vacation and special events that will not substantially alter the parenting plan;
  - d. Dates for summer vacation;
  - e. Schedule and conditions of phone or other contact with the children when in the other household;
  - f. Selection and scheduling of activities, and resolving conflicts between parties concerning the child's participation in recreation, enrichment and extracurricular activities/programs;
  - g. Making recommendations to parties on how to improve family functioning, and making referrals to other professionals to improve family functioning, including recommendations for custody or other focused evaluations;
  - h. Limitations on parties' rights to unilaterally have a child evaluated, whether medical, psychological, social, educational, etc. other than by mutual consent;
  - i. Children's travel and passport arrangements;
  - j. Equipment and personal possessions of the child, including movement of these items between households for child's use;
  - k. Assigning responsibility for authorizing health care, including counseling/therapy;

- l. Resolution of conflict between parties regarding education, including choice of public schools, tutoring, participation in special programs;
- m. Clarification of provisions in parenting plans to address inadvertent gaps that may lead to conflict between the parties (e.g., defining specific hours for pickup/drop-off on a holiday; addressing transportation-on holidays, etc.)
- n. Information exchanges (school, health, social, etc.) and communication about the child between the parties;
- o. Consistency in discipline and consequences for child's conduct;
- p. Religious education, religious identification and religious activities;
- q. Non-permanent significant changes in a child's appearance (i.e., haircuts, hair color changes, dress code, manicures);
- r. Other issues by agreement of the parties and the Parenting Coordinator or as ordered by the Court.

### III. Qualifications of Parenting Coordinators.

#### A. Professional Qualifications

- a. Attorneys. In order to serve as a Parenting Coordinator, attorneys must have the following qualifications:
  - i. A juris doctorate (or an equivalent law degree);
  - ii. Be admitted to practice law in the state of New Jersey for at least seven years;
  - iii. Be an attorney in good standing with an active license to practice law in the state of New Jersey; and
  - iv. Have a practice that is substantially devoted to matrimonial law, including extensive practical professional experience with high conflict family cases.
- b. Mental Health Professionals. In order to serve as a Parenting Coordinator, licensed mental health professionals must have the following qualifications:
  - i. Be licensed in the state of New Jersey by the appropriate State Board or Agency in their field;
  - ii. Be licensed to practice in their field for at least seven years, and be in good standing in their profession with an active

license to practice;

- iii. Have a practice that is substantially devoted to family forensic matters, including extensive practical professional experience with high conflict family cases.

## B. Training Requirements

1. General Provisions. All persons serving as Parenting Coordinators shall have completed a minimum of 40 hours of training complying with the requirements of subparagraph 3 of this rule.

2. Continuing Training. All Parenting Coordinators shall annually attend four hours of continuing education and shall file with the Administrative Office of the Courts, as appropriate, an annual certification of compliance. To meet the requirement, this continuing education shall include instruction in ethical issues associated with Parenting Coordination practice, program guidelines and/or case management and should cover at least one of the following: (A) case management skills; and (B) Parenting Coordination and resolution concepts and skills.

3. Parenting Coordination Course Content. The 40 hours of classroom instruction for Parenting Coordinators shall include basic mediation skills as well as at least 16 hours of specialized Parenting Coordination training, which should cover family and child development, psychological issues in separation and divorce, family dynamics, New Jersey family law, high-conflict family dynamics, parenting coordination process and techniques, domestic violence, the impact of divorce at varying developmental levels, family finances, and community resources.

## IV. PROCEDURES

- A. The Order of Appointment shall specify the authority of the Parenting Coordinator and indicate the Issues on which the Parenting Coordinator may make recommendations (see Appendix \_\_\_ to these Rules for sample orders).
- B. On each issue submitted to the parenting Coordinator, all parties will have an opportunity to be heard.
- C. Parenting Coordinators will not have *ex parte* communication with the court.
- D. A term limit for the appointment of the Parenting Coordinator shall be set forth in the order, as fixed by the Court or agreed by the parties, which term shall commence upon the parties' retention of the Parenting Coordinator. The term of appointment may be extended by the Court or agreement by the parties.

- E. A Parenting Coordinator shall document in writing all agreements made by the parties and all recommendations by the Parenting Coordinator, which shall be communicated simultaneously to both parties. In time sensitive circumstances, recommendations may be made orally and must be communicated to both parties, followed by written confirmation simultaneously communicated to both parties.
- F. The Parenting Coordinator shall hold an initial meeting with the parties, either jointly or separately, at the discretion of the Parenting Coordinator, and in compliance with limitations set forth in any domestic violence restraining order. The Parenting Coordinator has a duty to define and describe for the parties in the retainer agreement the role, limitations and fees of the Parenting Coordinator, which shall be consistent with the Order of Appointment.
- G. Grievance Procedure. Except as provided by other applicable law, a party having a complaint or grievance shall discuss the matter with the Parenting Coordinator in person in an attempt to resolve it before pursuing it in any other manner. The party shall submit a written letter to the Parenting Coordinator detailing the complaint or grievance, with a copy to the other party, (or to be provided by the Parenting Coordinator to the other party whenever a domestic violence restraining order prohibits direct contact between the parties), to both attorneys (if any), and to the attorney for the child(ren) if one is In place. The Parenting Coordinator shall within thirty (30) days provide a written response to both parties and the attorneys, subject to the other provisions herein. The Parenting Coordinator at their discretion may schedule a meeting or conference call with the attorneys or with the attorneys and the parties in an effort to resolve the complaint or grievance. In situations where the grievance or complaint is not resolved by this process, the dissatisfied party may request a court hearing to make a determination of the issue(s).
- H. Compensation of Parenting Coordinator. Parenting Coordinators shall be compensated in accordance with their stated fees and for expenses incurred, which shall be clearly set forth in the Order of Appointment, as well as in the Retainer Agreement and/or in the information and materials provided to the parties at the initial conference. Parties shall pay the apportioned percentage either agreed upon or determined by the Court and set forth in the Order of Appointment.
- I. Pay Disputes. If a Parenting Coordinator has not been timely paid or has Incurred unnecessary costs or expenses because of the failure of a party and/or counsel to participate in the parenting coordination process in accordance with the Order of Appointment, the Parenting Coordinator may bring an action to compel payment in the county in which the Order of Appointment originated by an application, motion or order to show cause in the Family Part.

J. Parenting Coordinator Retainer Agreement/Fees.

1. The Parenting Coordinator shall submit to the court a retainer agreement establishing the fees, costs and retainer associated with the appointment. This retainer agreement shall include the following information:
  - A. A statement/description of the services and disbursements for which the parties will be responsible and how they will be billed, the Parenting Coordinator's hourly billing rate and the amount of retainer required and how the retainer will be applied and replenished;
  - B. The method by which the fee will be computed;
  - C. When bills will be rendered, which shall be no less frequently than every 90 days, provided services were rendered in that period;
  - D. When payments are due;
  - E. Whether interest will be charged, provided interest does not begin to run until 30 days after a bill is rendered;
  - F. Whether and in what manner the retainer is to be replenished;
  - G. Whether rate increases may occur and the amount of notice to be provided to the parties;
  - H. Whether the parties will incur any costs associated with postponement, cancellation and/or non-appearance of either or both parties at a scheduled session;
  - I. The scope of authority and the issues on which the Parenting Coordinator may make recommendations, consistent with the Order of Appointment;
  - J. The procedures to be followed In the event either party has a grievance or fee dispute with the Parenting Coordinator.
2. The Parenting Coordinator's retainer agreement shall be attached to the court Order of Appointment, thereby attempting to avoid any discrepancies between the Order of Appointment and the retainer agreement.

3. The court shall order that the parties pay the Parenting Coordinator's requested retainer and execute the Parenting Coordinator's engagement/retainer agreement before the Parenting Coordinator begins work with a family. The court will determine the allocation between the parties of the Parenting Coordinator's fees, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, and in either event the allocation will be set forth in the order of appointment.
  4. The court may not order the parties to Parenting Coordination without their consent unless the court makes an initial determination that the parties have the financial ability to pay the Parenting Coordinator's fees and costs.
- K. Termination of Parenting Coordinator's Appointment. The court or the Parenting Coordinator may terminate the appointment if the services of the Parenting Coordinator do not meet the needs of the family, if the children have reached the age of majority, if the parties stipulate to such termination, if the Parenting Coordinator's fees are not being paid, upon withdrawal by the Parenting Coordinator, or at a time that is specified by the Order of Appointment. Either party may petition the court by motion for termination of the Parenting Coordinator's appointment whenever the Parenting Coordinator has exceeded their mandate or has acted in a manner inconsistent with the approved procedures, or has violated professional conduct, provided the approved grievance procedure has been utilized.

#### IV. Conflicts of Interest and impartiality

- A. Parenting Coordinators shall be subject to the professional standards of their respective professions.
- B. A Parenting Coordinator shall be impartial and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, language, marital status, socioeconomic status or disability. Parenting Coordinators shall withdraw from a case if they determine that they cannot act in an impartial manner. The Parenting Coordinator has a primary duty to be impartial and to advise all parties of any circumstances that create the appearance of possible bias, prejudice, or inability to remain impartial. A Parenting Coordinator may make referrals to other professionals to work with the family but shall avoid actual or apparent conflicts of interest when making such referrals.
- C. A Parenting Coordinator shall neither give nor accept a gift, favor, loan or other Item of value from any party having an interest in the Parenting Coordination process.

- D. A Parenting Coordinator shall not serve in a manner that presents a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when any relationship between the Parenting Coordinator and either or both parties, or the subject matter of the dispute compromises the Parenting Coordinator's impartiality. A Parenting Coordinator shall disclose potential conflicts of interest as soon as practical after a Parenting Coordinator becomes aware of the interest or relationship giving rise to the potential conflict.
- E. During the Parenting Coordination process, a Parenting Coordinator shall not create a conflict of interest by providing any service to interested parties that are not directly related to the Parenting Coordination process.
- F. For purposes of this rule, a conflict of interest shall include, but not be limited to;
1. The Parenting Coordinator has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or a party's lawyer;
  2. The Parenting Coordinator has personal knowledge of the parties, the children or of disputed evidentiary facts concerning the proceeding;
  3. The Parenting Coordinator, or a partner or associate in the Parenting Coordinator's firm, served as lawyer, therapist, consultant, coach or in any other mental health role for the parties or children.
- G. A Parenting Coordinator disqualified by the terms of this Rule may not avoid disqualification by disclosing the conflict of interest and securing the parties' consent to a waiver of the conflict.
- H. A Parenting Coordinator shall attend to all matters in a timely manner, with the understanding that parenting coordination is not crisis Intervention.
- I. A Parenting Coordinator may make referrals to other professionals to work with the family, but shall avoid actual or apparent conflicts of interest by referrals. No commissions, rebates, or other remuneration shall be given or received by a Parenting Coordinator for Parenting Coordination referrals.
- J. A Parenting Coordinator shall not serve in dual sequential roles in a matter. This Includes the following roles: *guardian ad litem*; mediator; custody evaluator; therapist, coach, consultant or other mental health role for either party or a child in the matter; or attorney for either party or the child.
- K. A Parenting Coordinator should attempt to facilitate resolution of issues by agreement of the parties. In doing so, the Parenting Coordinator is not acting in a

formal mediation role, or as a therapist or an evaluator, or a legal advisor. An effort towards resolving an issue does not disqualify a Parenting Coordinator from making a recommendation on an issue that remains unresolved after efforts of facilitation.

#### V. Confidentiality/Manner of Communications

- A. All communications from/to the parties and/or their lawyers to/from the Parenting Coordinator, shall not be deemed confidential, but rather shall be admissible in evidence, except that Parenting Coordinators have the discretion to keep any communications they have with the children confidential. All communications from third parties to Parenting Coordinators shall not be deemed confidential, unless the communication is made from a third party who has a privileged relationship with a party/child, in which case the issue of whether the communication remains privileged/confidential shall be explicitly addressed.
- B. A Parenting Coordinator shall inform the parties that there are no limitations on confidentiality in the parenting coordination process, as set forth above.
- C. The Parenting Coordinator may communicate with a *guardian ad litem*, a party, a party's attorney, or a third party on an *ex parte* basis to the extent necessary to obtain information relevant to the Parenting Coordinator's role. The fact of such communication shall be made known to the parties consistent with protocols established by the Parenting Coordinator. The Parenting Coordinator may meet and interview the children with the express written consent of the parents/legal guardians or by court order. If the Parenting Coordinator believes that this will aid in issuing appropriate recommendations.
- D. The parties shall have the right to initiate or receive oral *ex parte* communications with the Parenting Coordinator; however, the fact of such communication shall be made known to the other party contemporaneously with its occurring (or as soon thereafter as possible) through confirmatory written memorialization in a manner consistent with the Parenting Coordinator's protocols. Any party or counsel may communicate in writing with the Parenting Coordinator and copies of such communications will be provided to the other party, unless the Parenting Coordinator determines otherwise, in which event the parenting Coordinator will determine the means by which they will communicate its contents to the other parent consistent with the protocols established by the Parenting Coordinator. Copies of any documents, tape recordings or other electronic material that one party gives to the Parenting Coordinator must also be given to the other party unless the Parenting Coordinator determines otherwise, in which event the Parenting Coordinator will determine the means by which the contents will be communicated to the other parent. If a crisis situation arises that will affect a child, the Parenting Coordinator may make a recommendation on an emergent basis, either with both parties present, via emergency conference call which must include both parents, or by e-mail. [NOTE:

In cases in which there is an active domestic violence restraining order between the parties, communication shall be consistent with the limitations of such order.]

#### VI. Statewide Approved List of Parenting Coordinators

- A. A credentials committee comprised of representatives from the Supreme Court Committee on Complementary Dispute Resolution shall be responsible for reviewing and approving all parenting coordinator applications. Applicants must complete an application form posted on the Judiciary's website ([judiciary.state.nj.us](http://judiciary.state.nj.us)). Parenting Coordinators who meet the professional and training requirements set forth in this rule, and any other approved criteria that may be developed by the Family Court Programs Subcommittee on Complementary Dispute Resolution shall be added to the Roster of Approved Parenting Coordinators. The roster shall be maintained by the Administrative Office of the Courts and shall be posted on the Judiciary's internet website.
- B. Approved Parenting Coordinators must annually submit to the Supreme Court Committee on Complementary Dispute Resolution proof that they continue to be licensed and in good standing in their respective professions,
- C. Absent a showing of good cause, the court may not appoint or approve the appointment by consent of the parties, any individual to serve as a Parenting Coordinator who is not on the Statewide Approved List of Parenting Coordinators.

#### VII. Immunity

An individual serving as a court-appointed Parenting Coordinator acts as the court's agent and is entitled to quasi-judicial immunity co-extensive with that of an expert witness or arbitrator, consistent with applicable New Jersey law, for acts performed within the scope and duties of the Parenting Coordinator as set forth in the court's order of appointment.

**APPENDIX C  
SAMPLE ORDER**

Note: This sample order is not a mandatory form. Orders entered appointing a parenting coordinator must conform to R. \_\_\_\_\_ (Court rule governing appointments)

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
CHANCERY DIVISION-FAMILY PARE  
COUNTY  
DOCKET NO,

Plaintiff	:	Civil Action
v,	:	ORDER APPOINTING
Defendant	:	PARENTING COORDINATOR

This matter having been opened to the court [upon consent of the parties; after a plenary hearing; etc.], and the Court having considered [the testimony and evidence presented by the parties; the certifications submitted by the parties and the argument of counsel etc.]; and [the court having rendered a decision; or the parties having agreed to the form and substance of this order; etc.] and for good cause shown;

IT IS on this day of \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_ ORDERED as follows:

1. Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_, New Jersey (tel: \_\_\_\_\_), is hereby appointed Parenting Coordinator (“Parenting Coordinator”) for a term of \_\_\_\_\_(date/event).

2. Fees and Retainer: The Parenting Coordinator will be compensated at the hourly rate of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ consistent with their retainer agreement. A joint retainer of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ will be paid to the Parenting Coordinator and the parties shall sign the Parenting Coordinator’s retainer agreement, a copy of which is annexed to this Order as Schedule A, within \_\_\_\_days of entry of this Order. The parties will share the Parenting Coordinator’s fees as follows: Plaintiff \_\_\_\_ % and

Defendant \_\_\_% subject to a reallocation by application to the Court. In the event of a request for reallocation of fees and costs, the Parenting Coordinator may submit findings and recommendations concerning this issue.

3. Role of Parenting Coordinator: The Parenting Coordinator shall serve to resolve conflicts and disagreements related to parenting issues, to facilitate communication and agreement whenever possible, to seek to assist the parties to learn strategies to avoid conflict regarding their children, and to make recommendations within the scope of this assignment when parents cannot agree. The Parenting Coordinator's goal is to aid the parties in implementing and monitoring the existing parenting plan, reducing misunderstandings, clarifying priorities, exploring possibilities for compromise, and developing methods of communication to promote cooperation in parenting. The Parenting Coordinator does not function as an attorney, counselor, therapist, mediator, custody evaluator, or advocate for the parties, children, or family.

4. No Confidentiality: Communications from the parties and/or their attorneys to the Parenting Coordinator and/or from the Parenting Coordinator to the parties shall not be deemed confidential, but rather shall be admissible in evidence, under New Jersey Rules of Evidence and Rules of Court, except that the Parenting Coordinator has the discretion to keep any communication they have with the children confidential. All communications from third parties to Parenting Coordinators shall not be deemed confidential, unless the communication is made from a third party who has a privileged relationship with a party/child, in which case the issue of whether the communication remains privileged and confidential shall be explicitly addressed.

5. Recommendations: The Parenting Coordinator will make recommendations to the parties directly in writing, and to their respective attorneys, if any, if the Parenting Coordinator deems appropriate. If either party disputes the recommendations or the other party's compliance

with the recommendations, the Parenting Coordinator's report/recommendations and any attached documents may accompany either party's application to the Court and may be admissible in evidence in any Court proceedings that may follow. The Parenting Coordinator's recommendations shall [be binding upon the parties subject to a judicial, review, within a specified time period] OR [shall not be binding subject to judicial review on application by either party.]

6. Sources of Information: Each party is ordered to provide the Parenting Coordinator with all requested information including the signing of all releases requested for collateral contacts. The Parenting Coordinator is authorized to have contact with any professional or other individual the Parenting Coordinator deems necessary to perform the duties as Parenting Coordinator (e.g., the children, therapists, physicians, childcare providers, teachers, family members, etc.). In the event that either a collateral contact possesses privileged information or the information sought is privileged (pursuant to a statutory privilege), the party has the right to oppose signing the release and shall advise the Parenting Coordinator and the other party of their objections, If the issue remains unresolved, it shall be resolved by the Court upon application by either party. In adjudicating the issue, the Court shall determine whether the release is to be signed, including whether and to what extent privileged information shall remain confidential even upon disclosure to the Parenting Coordinator.

7. Scope: The Parenting Coordinator shall not have authority to conduct parenting time or custody evaluations or to make recommendations as to custody and parenting time schedules, except as set forth in this Order and specifically agreed by the parties. The Parenting Coordinator is authorized to make recommendations about issues, which may in the Parenting Coordinator's discretion include, but are not limited to, the following: [NOTE: This list may be limited or expanded, depending on the issues to be addressed in the process]

- Dates, times, places, and conditions for transitions between households.
  - \* Temporary variation from the schedule for a special event, holiday or particular circumstance.
  - \* Child's participation in recreation, enrichment, and extra-curricular activities, programs, and travel.
  - \* Childcare arrangements.
  - \* Clothing, equipment, toys and child's personal possessions.
  - \* Discipline and behavior management of child.
  - \* Information exchange (school, health, social, etc.) and communication about child.
  - \* Arrangements for health care reimbursements,
  - \* Clarification of provisions in the court-ordered parenting plan, including, but not limited to, holiday and vacation plans, and attendance at special events.
  - \* Communication with the child when in the care of the other parent, as well as communication between the parties regarding the child's issues.
  - \* Coordination of additional services for a parent or child, (e.g., psychological testing, alcohol/drug monitoring/testing, psychotherapy, anger management, parenting class).
  - \* Behaviors and communications of the parties to or in front of the child and/or each other.
8. Protocol: The Parenting Coordinator shall determine the protocol of all communications, interviews, and sessions, including who shall or may attend the meetings.
9. Communication with the Parenting Coordinator: The parties have the right to initiate or receive oral one-sided communication with the Parenting Coordinator, at the Parenting Coordinator's discretion, and the fact of such communication shall be made known to the other

party. If communication is made in writing with the Parenting Coordinator, copies of such written communication will be provided to the other party simultaneously, unless the Parenting Coordinator determines otherwise, in which event the Parenting Coordinator will determine the means by which they will communicate its contents to the other parent- Copies of any documents, tape recordings, or other electronic material that one party gives to the Parenting Coordinator must also be given to the other party unless the Parenting Coordinator determines otherwise, in which event the Parenting Coordinator will determine the means by which the contents will be communicated to the other parent. If a crisis situation arises that will affect a child, the Parenting Coordinator may make a recommendation on an emergent basis, either with both parties present or via emergency conference call, which must include both parents, or by e-mail. [NOTE: In cases involving domestic violence, with or without a TRO/FRO, this provision should be revised to limit direct communication between the parties consistent with the provisions of the TRO/FRO].

10. Meetings with the Parenting Coordinator: The Parenting Coordinator may meet with the parties, the child and significant others jointly or separately, at the Parenting Coordinator's discretion. Meetings may be via telephone, video conference or in person, also at the Parenting Coordinator's discretion, either parent may contact the Parenting Coordinator to schedule appointments, which may also be scheduled at the request of the Parenting Coordinator. A parent's request for a meeting must be in writing (with a simultaneous copy sent to the other parent) and include an agenda of issues or disputes the parent wishes the Parenting Coordinator to resolve. The Parenting .Coordinator will provide an agenda to the parties in the event the Parenting Coordinator initiates the request for a meeting. In no event may either parent tape or record any Parenting Coordination sessions. [NOTE: In cases involving domestic violence, with or without a TRO/FRO, this provision would be revised to limit direct communication/meetings between the parties].

11. Testimony: The Parenting Coordinator shall testify only pursuant to an order issued by a judge in this matter. All court appearances, depositions, conferences or other appearances at which the Parenting Coordinator is called to testify or make a report or otherwise participate in connection with these proceedings or other proceedings involving any or all of the participants in this proceeding; as well as travel time in connection with being called to testify or appear, shall be paid at the Parenting Coordinator's hourly rate, which currently is \$ \_\_\_\_\_, and payment of the estimated amount required shall be paid no later than 48 hours prior to testifying or appearing,

12. Litigation Privilege/Immunity: In all actions involving this case and family, the Parenting Coordinator will be engaged in a quasi-judicial role and shall be entitled to immunity from civil liability, co-extensive with that of an expert witness or arbitrator. The legal duty owed by the Parenting Coordinator is to the Court alone.

13. Termination/Grievance: The Parenting Coordinator may withdraw from service at any time, upon twenty (20) days' notice to the parties and the Court, if they determine resignation to be in the best interests of the children, if they are unable to serve out the term and believe that they no longer can be effective, if the conduct of either or both of the parties becomes abusive or harassing to the Parenting Coordinator or the Parenting Coordinator's staff, or if their fees are not paid, in accordance with their retainer agreement. If either party believes that there exists a grievance with the Parenting Coordinator which cannot be resolved, that party must discuss the matter with the Parenting Coordinator in person in an attempt to resolve it before pursuing it in any other manner. If the issue remains unresolved, the aggrieved party shall submit a written letter to the Parenting Coordinator detailing the complaint or grievance, with a copy to the other party and to attorneys for each party (inapplicable), and to the attorney for the child or

*guardian ad litem* if one is in place. The Parenting Coordinator shall within twenty (20) days provide a written response to both parties and their attorneys. The Parenting Coordinator at the Parenting Coordinator's discretion may schedule a meeting or conference call with the attorneys or with the attorneys and parties in an effort to resolve the complaint. When the situation is not resolved by this process, the dissatisfied party may bring a motion to address the issues or to have the Parenting Coordinator relieved, provided that the party has first complied with the procedures set forth in this paragraph.

14. Report to the Court: Upon request of the Court and on notice to both parties, the Parenting Coordinator shall report to the Court and all parties any needs for the child's therapy or Plaintiff's/Defendant's therapy, or treatment, the recalcitrance of either party, or other matters deemed relevant to a decision by the Court. The Parenting Coordinator's fees shall include their time in preparing such reports, including responding to any grievances filed by either party. In the event the Parenting Coordinator believes either party has been recalcitrant and/or non-cooperative and thereby has interfered with the parenting coordination process, that view shall be communicated in writing to the parties and their attorneys, either of whom may then petition the court for appropriate relief, including, but not limited to. sanctions, counsel fees, reallocation of the Parenting Coordinator's fees, and the remedies set forth in Rule 5:3-7.

15. Effect of Recommendations: The Parenting Coordinator's recommendations [will be binding \_\_\_\_ days after they are rendered unless one of the parties files an application with the Court setting forth their objections], OR [shall be non-binding pending judicial review], (choose one).

J.S.C.