EXHIBIT NO. _____

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF _____, MISSOURI
(County where court is located)

If this parenting plan is filed after the case has been filed, you MUST enter the Case Number.

_____ _____ _____ _____
(First) *(Middle)* *(Last)* *(Jr./Sr./III)*
Petitioner/Plaintiff,

-and-

_____ _____ _____ _____
(First) *(Middle)* *(Last)* *(Jr./Sr./III)*
Respondent/Defendant.

Case No. _____

Division No. _____

PARENTING PLAN
Part A – Custody of the Children

1. Identification of the Parties

Check one, and only one, of the following two boxes.

☐ Mother is the Petitioner/Plaintiff. Father is the Respondent/Defendant.
☐ Father is the Petitioner/Plaintiff. Mother is the Respondent/Defendant.

2. Plan Author(s)

Check all applicable boxes.

☐ Court
☐ Mother
☐ Father
☐ Guardian ad Litem
☐ _____

3. Names and Ages of Children

Enter the total number of children to whom this parenting plan is applicable: _____.
The names and ages of the children (hereinafter referred to simply as "the children") are as follows:

Full Name of Child	Child's Age

4. Duration of Plan

The terms and conditions set forth in this parenting plan shall remain in full force and effect until the children are emancipated or until this plan is modified by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Decisions Concerning the Children

"Joint legal custody" means that the parents share the decision-making rights, responsibilities, and authority relating to the health, education and welfare of the child, and, unless allocated, apportioned, or decreed, the parents shall confer with one another in the exercise of decision-making rights, responsibilities, and authority. §452.375.1(2), RSMo.

5. Types of Decisions

The three types of decisions that parents must make concerning their children are major decisions, daily or everyday decisions, and emergency decisions.

A. Major Decisions

Major decisions are the significant decisions about the children. Major decisions are made by the parent or parents with legal custody. The following are examples of major decisions:

- The choice or change of schools, including college or special tutoring,
- The choice or change of physician, surgeon or dentist,
- Religious instruction, training or education,
- Selection of child care providers,
- Major medical care, surgery, or any medical procedure requiring hospitalization or out-patient surgery,
- Major dental work and orthodontia,
- Psychological or psychiatric treatment or counseling,
- The choice or change of camps or other special or extracurricular activities,
- The extent of any travel away from home,
- Part or full-time employment,
- Purchase or operation of a motor vehicle,
- Contraception and sex education,
- Actual or potential litigation on behalf of the children.

B. Daily or Everyday Decisions

Daily or everyday decisions are routine decisions like minor medical treatment, bedtimes, homework, chores, selection of clothing and normal daily activities.

Daily decisions shall be made by the parent having actual physical custody at the time of the decision. The parents shall cooperate in establishing mutually agreeable policies regarding such decisions in order that routine decisions remain as consistent as possible.

C. Emergency Decisions

Emergency decisions are decisions of an urgent nature. They affect the health and safety of the children and have to be made before it is possible to contact the other parent.

The parent who is with the minor child requiring emergency care may make the emergency decision. The parent making the emergency decision shall advise the other parent of the nature and extent of the emergency as soon as possible.

6. Access to Medical, Dental and Educational Records of the Children

Unless otherwise provided in this parenting plan, both parents are entitled to access to records and information pertaining to the children, including, but not limited to, full and complete medical, dental, and educational records subject to Part A, Paragraph 19.

7. Legal Custody

*You **must** check one and only one of the following four boxes.*

☐ Mother and Father – Joint Legal Custody

It is in the best interests of the children that Mother and Father have joint legal custody of the children. Major decisions shall be made by Mother and Father jointly. If Mother and Father disagree on a major decision they shall resolve their disagreement through the dispute resolution procedure set forth herein.

☐ Mother – Sole Legal Custody to Mother

It is in the best interests of the children that Mother has sole legal custody of the children. Major decisions affecting the children shall be made by Mother. Mother and Father cannot share joint legal custody because: (*Missouri Law requires a statement of the reasons for a request for no shared decision-making. If you do not enter a reason on this line, the court MUST grant joint legal custody.)*

_____

_____

☐ Father – Sole Legal Custody to Father

It is in the best interests of the children that Father has sole legal custody of the children. Major decisions affecting the children shall be made by Father. Mother and Father cannot share joint legal custody because: *(Missouri Law requires a statement of the reasons for a request for no shared decision-making. If you do not enter a reason on this line, the court MUST grant joint legal custody.)*

_____

_____

☐ Third Party – Sole Legal Custody to Third Party

It is in the best interest of the children that _____ (hereinafter referred to as "Third Party") has sole legal and sole physical custody of the children. Major decisions affecting the children shall be made by Third Party. Both parents are unfit, unsuitable, or unable to be a custodian of the children or the welfare of the children requires that neither parent have physical custody. *(If this box is checked, the same box MUST be checked under Part A, Paragraph 10.)*

8. Communication between Parents

Communication between the parents concerning the children may be by any of the following methods: *Check each box that is appropriate in your case.*

☐ In person
☐ Home telephone
☐ Work telephone
☐ Mobile telephone
☐ Letter via U.S. Postal Service
☐ Email
☐ Fax
☐ Via a designated third person. This third person will be _____.

The children shall not be used as messengers.

9. Issues not to be Discussed in the Presence of the Children

Mother and Father shall each refrain from making negative, derogatory or degrading statements about the other parent in front of the children. Both parents shall exercise their best efforts to foster the respect, love and affection of the children toward the other parent. Mother and Father shall avoid discussing parenting issues, financial issues, and other topics related to these proceedings when the children are present.

Mother and Father should prevent other persons from making negative, derogatory or degrading statements about the other parent in the presence of the children.

When the Children Will Be with Each Parent

"Joint physical custody" means an order awarding each of the parents significant but not necessarily equal, periods of time during which a child resides with or is under the care and supervision of each of the parents. Joint physical custody shall be shared by the parents in such a way as to assure the child of frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with both parents. §452.375.1(3), RSMo.

10. Physical Custody

*You **must** check one and only one of the following nine boxes.*

☐ Joint Physical Custody Using Mother's Address –It is in the best interest of the children that Mother and Father have joint physical custody of the children. The address of the children for mailing and educational purposes is the same as that of Mother.

☐ Joint Physical Custody Using Father's Address – It is in the best interest of the children that Mother and Father have joint physical custody of the children. The address of the children for mailing and educational purposes is the same as that of Father.

☐ Sole Physical Custody to Mother and Visitation to Father – It is in the best interests of the children that Mother has sole physical custody of the children and that Father have visitation as set forth herein.

☐ Sole Physical Custody to Father and Visitation to Mother –It is in the best interests of the children that Father has sole physical custody of the children and that Mother have visitation as set forth herein.

☐ Sole Physical Custody to Mother and Supervised Visitation to Father – It is in the best interests of the children that Mother have sole physical custody of the children and Father have supervised visitation as set forth herein. Unsupervised visitation would endanger the children's physical health or impair their emotional development because:_____
_____.
Visitation will be supervised by _____.

☐ Sole Physical Custody to Father and Supervised Visitation to Mother - It is in the best interests of the children that Father have sole physical custody of the children and Mother have supervised visitation as set forth herein. Unsupervised visitation would endanger the children's physical health or impair their emotional development because:_____
_____.
Visitation will be supervised by _____.

☐ Sole Physical Custody to Mother and No Visitation to Father – It is in the best interests of the children that Mother has sole physical custody of the children and Father has no visitation with the children. Visitation would endanger the children's physical health or impair their emotional development. Father shall not have access to records and information pertaining to the children pursuant to §452.376.1, RSMo.

☐ Sole Physical Custody to Father and No Visitation to Mother - It is in the best interests of the children that Father has sole physical custody of the children and Mother has no visitation with the children. Visitation would endanger the children's physical health or impair their emotional development. Mother shall not have access to records and information pertaining to the children pursuant to §452.376.1, RSMo.

☐ Physical and Legal Custody to a Third Party – It is in the best interest of the children that _____ (hereinafter referred to as "Third Party") has sole legal and sole physical custody of the children. Both parents are unfit, unsuitable, or unable to be a custodian of the children or the welfare of the children requires that neither parent have physical custody. *(If this box is checked, the same box MUST be checked in Part A, Paragraph 7.)*

11. Residential Schedules

Mother and Father shall have physical custody of the children as they agree. In the event they do not agree, then Mother and Father shall exchange the children as set forth in the residential schedules.

Each parent shall consider reasonable changes when requested by the other parent or the children. If a significant change is made, either parent may reduce their agreement to writing. All changes are unenforceable unless in writing and signed by both parents.

12. Location of Exchanges

If a specific location for an exchange is not stated on the schedule, then the exchange shall occur at the following location:

*You **must** check one and only one of the following four boxes.*

☐ All exchanges shall occur at the children's school or child care provider.
☐ All exchanges shall occur at the Mother's Residence.
☐ All exchanges shall occur at the Father's Residence.
☐ All exchanges shall occur at _____.

13. Transportation

The parent who has the children takes the children to the exchange location. Each party will pay the expenses associated with his or her own transportation to and from the exchange location unless otherwise indicated in this parenting plan.

14. Notification of Change from Residential Schedule

In the event either parent cannot exercise the scheduled time with the children, he or she should tell the other parent as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours before the start of the scheduled time with the children. If a parent anticipates that he or she may have to cancel at the last minute, he or she should advise the other parent of the possible last minute conflict. If a parent fails to notify the other as set forth above, he or she shall be responsible for the reasonable costs incurred by the other parent.

15. Telephone Contact with Children

Each parent may contact the children in a reasonable manner when the children are with the other parent. Neither parent shall contact the children at the other parent's residence later than _____. *(If this line is left blank, there are no restrictions as to time.)*

Each parent shall provide the other parent with the telephone number at which the children may be contacted. Neither parent shall configure their telephone system in such a manner as to "block" or prevent the other parent from calling.

When a parent travels with the children, he or she must notify the other parent of the children's destination. He or she must also provide a telephone number where the children can be reached.

16. Children's Activities

Both parents must attempt to accommodate the social and academic commitments of the children during the time the children are with them. Each parent should attempt to refrain from scheduling activities that occur primarily when the children are with the other parent. If an activity will affect the other parent's time with the children, the parent scheduling the activity should obtain the affected parent's permission before committing the children to the activity.

17. Dispute Resolution Procedure

This is the manner in which Mother and Father will resolve disagreements concerning the children. This includes disagreements on the meaning or interpretation of any provision of this plan. Mother and Father shall present their disagreements to a mediator chosen by them for non-binding mediation. In the event that the parents cannot resolve the dispute by mediation, they may submit the issue to the Court through appropriate proceedings.

Additional dispute resolution procedures are as follows:

_____
_____
_____

Other Provisions Concerning the Children

18. Relocation

§452.377, RSMo states:

"Absent exigent circumstances as determined by a court with jurisdiction, you as a party to this action are ordered to notify, in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested, and at least sixty days prior to the proposed relocation, each party to this action of any proposed relocation of the principal residence of the child, including the following information:

(1) The intended new residence, including the specific address and mailing address, if known, and if not known, the city;

(2) The home telephone number of the new residence, if known;

(3) The date of the intended move or proposed relocation;

(4) A brief statement of the specific reasons for the proposed relocation of the child; and

(5) A proposal for a revised schedule of custody or visitation with the child.

Your obligation to provide this information to each party continues as long as you or any other party by virtue of this order is entitled to custody of a child covered by this order. Your failure to obey the order of this court regarding the proposed relocation may result in further litigation to enforce such order, including contempt of court. In addition, your failure to notify a party of a relocation of the child may be considered in a proceeding to modify custody or visitation with the child. Reasonable costs and attorney fees may be assessed against you if you fail to give the required notice."

The residence of the child may be relocated sixty (60) days after providing notice unless a parent files a motion seeking an order to prevent the relocation within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice. Such motion shall be accompanied by an affidavit setting forth the specific factual bases supporting a prohibition of the relocation.

19. Domestic Violence between the Parents

*You **must** check one and only one of the following five boxes.*

☐ There has been no domestic violence between the parents.

☐ There has been domestic violence by Mother against Father. Any educational records of the children shall not include the address of Father or the children.

☐ There has been domestic violence by Father against Mother. Any educational records of the children shall not include the address of Mother or the children.

☐ There has been domestic violence by Mother against Father; however, the educational records of the children may include the address of Father or the children.

☐ There has been domestic violence by Father against Mother; however, the educational records of the children may include the address of Mother or the children.

20. Pattern of Domestic Violence between the Parents

*You **must** check one and only one of the following three boxes.*

☐ There has been no **pattern** of domestic violence by either Mother or Father.

☐ There has been a **pattern** of domestic violence by Mother against Father. This parenting plan best protects the children and Father from any further violence.

☐ There has been a **pattern** of domestic violence by Father against Mother. This parenting plan best protects the children and Mother from any further violence.

21. Other Custody Provisions

_____

_____	_____	_____
Mother	Father	Guardian ad Litem
_____	_____	
Attorney for Mother	Attorney For Father	