

PARENTAL CONDUCT STANDARDS

The quality of conduct with respect to children and behavior and conduct with respect to the other party or parties will impact a custody outcome in Court. **Commit to your child.** Be the parent your child **deserves** and the parent that you want your child to look back upon with fond memories.

1. **TRANSITION PREPARATION.** Help prepare the child for the physical and emotional challenges of changing homes because proper preparation supports the child and supports the child's relationship with the other party.
2. **ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION & HYGIENE.** Encourage and support proper hygiene routines for the child. Have available and administer medications in a manner consistent with physician directives.
3. **HOUSEHOLD RULES.** Each party sets and enforces rules in his/her home. However, consistent and reasonable rules are an important goal. Guidelines for chores, homework, behavior and electronic device use should be discussed by the parties. For example, if discipline involves the loss of an electronic device or loss of time on a device, share the information and the reason for the discipline with the other party.
4. **SCHOOL/HOMEWORK.** Both parents are responsible for supervising homework and school projects and for making sure that assignments are done properly and in a timely manner. The custodial parent is responsible for making sure that a child is at school on time and prepared and is also responsible for timely obtaining any excuse notes, if required, for tardiness or absences, and for promptly notifying the other party of the tardy arrival or absence.
5. **FAMILY & SPECIAL EVENTS.** Family and special events are important to a child. Notify the other party as soon as you have notice of such an event. Be flexible and support the child's participation in the special event.
6. **COMMUNICATION.** Communicate directly and respectfully with the other party. Do not use a child as a messenger. Do not interrogate a child about the other party or his/her household. Do not discuss finances or other adult issues with or in front of the child. Say something positive about the other party in front of the child. If a child mentions something about the other party or household which is a concern, clarify the issue directly with the other party. Respond to an e-mail or text about the child from the other party within 24 hours.
7. **ACTIVITIES/SCHOOL EVENTS.** Use best efforts to ensure that the child attends most of his/her scheduled activities, and activities shall be reasonable with respect to number and location. Each party shall have the option to attend school events and activities no matter which party has custody at the time.