

IMPACT OF HIGH-CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

- Threatens the protective role of parents
- Frightens children
- Increases anxiety and distress
- May cause child to assume an adult role
- “Surreal sense of not existing”

(Johnston and Roseby, 1997)



THROUGH A CHILD'S
EYES



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PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER



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MENTAL
HEALTH
AMERICA IN
BOONE COUNTY

PARENTING
COORDINATION



*CREATING A
WINDOW OF
HOPE*

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The Primary Goal of Parenting Coordination is to offer children of separation the opportunity to grow in a home environment free from being caught in the middle of parental hostility.

The Secondary Goal of Parenting Coordination is to foster a constructive post separation parental alliance in order to assist parents to:

1. Disengage from the physical and emotional relationship of the marriage;
2. Clarify new boundaries;
3. Manage conflict;
4. Make effective mutual decisions;
5. Increase positive cooperative behaviors; and
6. Understand the impact of separation and parental conflict on their children.

At least 1 in 4 divorces are considered high-conflict.

(Macoby & Mnookin, 1992).

BENEFITS OF PARENTING COORDINATION

- Reduces the number of litigated cases
- Communicates to parents that the children come first
- Offers families a valuable resource
- Provides prompt resolution to daily child-rearing issues
- Monitors parental compliance with the Court order
- Provides the Court a comprehensive picture of the family "in action" by way of court testimony

HOW IT BENEFITS PARENTS

- Reduces cost of on-going legal action
- Helps parents to let go of the past and develop an effective co-parenting relationship
- Educates parents regarding the impact of parental conflict on their child(ren)'s development
- Helps parents identify their contribution to conflict from direct feedback
- Teaches parents anger management, communication and conflict

resolution skills so they may resolve their issues more effectively

- Reduces the stress of ongoing conflict
- Improves and clarifies the flow of information between homes
- Increases cooperation and teamwork

HOW IT BENEFITS CHILDREN

- Reduces the child(ren)'s symptoms of stress as parental conflict decreases
- Diminishes the child's sense of loyalty binds
- Creates a more relaxed home atmosphere allowing the child to adjust more effectively
- May provide a healthier model of conflict resolution
- Increases the likelihood of keeping two active parents in the child(ren)'s life

***PARENTING COORDINATION MUST BE COURT ORDERED. PLEASE CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PROCESS.**