

JOINT FAMILY MEETING GUIDELINES

Family: _____

Format: Zoom

The parties in the above-styled case have agreed to have a Joint Family Meeting with the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) and agree to abide by the following guidelines:

1. The children that are the subject of the family meeting are: _____
2. The parties understand that the purpose of the Joint Family Meeting w/ GAL is to discuss ongoing and immediate needs of the children and hopefully discuss mutually acceptable resolution of the children's ongoing needs even if only on a temporary basis. The GAL will lead the discussion and has asked the parties to provide their request prior to the meeting.
3. The parties agree to have this meeting virtually the parties agree to use an online platform for the meeting. Parties agree they will download, install, and familiarize themselves with the software and establish a free account, if necessary, to participate in the online meeting. Parties acknowledge they have a strong and secure WiFi or Ethernet (hard-wired) connection for their computer. Parties further affirm that they are not on a public WiFi connection.
4. If from the meeting the parties choose to enter into a written agreement around the issues raised, they will agree to sign said document electronically initially. In the event when original signatures are required, then parties will receive copies for printing and signing and will be responsible for returning the executed copies to GAL via mail or overnight delivery service.
5. For the meeting to be successful respectful communication is essential. Respectful communication means not talking over each other, listening to each other and the GAL, not raising your voice towards any party or the GAL and not using swear/curse or demeaning language towards one another, and watching your tone. The GAL may choose to mute or remove into a breakout space a party if they are not engaging in respectful communication. Said actions are in the GAL's sole discretion. At any time during the meeting, the meeting can be terminated by either party or the GAL.
6. **Information gathered in the meeting process is NOT confidential and privileged.** Parties agree not to record any portion of a joint family meeting. The parties understand that the GAL is also using this joint family meeting to observe the parties' interactions and make recommendations for custody and visitation and co-parenting of the minor child(ren) at issue.
7. The parties understand that the GAL does not provide legal or financial advice and is not functioning as an attorney or mediator. All parties are able to stop the meeting at any time to consult with counsel if counsel is not present at the meeting.
8. By signing this agreement, all parties agree to participate in good faith, respectfully and work toward a resolution of the issues. If an agreement or partial agreement is reached, the GAL will prepare said agreement and review same with the parties.

I have read, understand and agree to each of the provisions of this agreement, this day as indicated below:

Mother

Date:

Father

Date

Guardian Ad Litem

Date: