

Coach Brian Brunkow
Divorce & Post Divorce: Parenting Plan Disputes

FAQ's

Q – Is coaching the same as legal services?

A – No. Coaching is intended to provide communication and general conflict resolution strategies. Coaching is not intended to replace specific, detailed, ground-level legal advice. For example, determining tax matters, how to divide assets and debts and setting monthly child support would be the domain of a licensed attorney.

Q – Are you a licensed attorney?

A – Yes. I am licensed and in good standing in WA ('01) and CA ('06). With more than twenty years of experience, **I now coach clients on communication and dispute resolution strategies. Also, I've led dispute resolution seminars for high school football coaches in CA, NV and AZ and I currently teach dispute resolution continuing legal education courses to lawyers.** What I've seen over twenty years is that most conflicts are the result of communication issues. And this is where I use my experience to serve clients.

Q – Can I hire you as an attorney for a family law matter?

A – No. In family law matters I only focus on coaching services.

Q – What areas of family law can I hire you for as a coach?

A – Parenting Plans (residential schedule; decision making). I help clients on communication issues related to the creation of and modification of parenting plans. Parenting plans tend to be the most contentious and heated issue so this is where I focus my coaching.

Conflict Hypotheticals:

- **Religion:** Parent One is atheist. Parent Two is religious. How to approach religious upbringing?
- **Youth Sports:** Parent One wants the child to do gymnastics or play football. Parent Two disagrees because of the time, expense and danger of these two sports.
- **Parenting Style:** Parent One is a “helicopter” parent. Parent Two is a “free-range” parent. How to approach these conflicting parenting styles in the parenting plan?

Q – Why not help with “money” issues like assets, debts and child support?

A - There are standard software programs available (lawyer, county family law facilitator, county law library) to assist with finance issues. The parenting plan, on the other hand, is more “art” than math. Communicating and creating a durable, mutually beneficial solution to the parenting plan (that is in the child's “best interest”) requires more than crunching numbers in a software program.

Q – Should I or must I hire an attorney for a family law matter?

A – There is no “one-size fits all” approach. It absolutely depends on your specific situation. Know that there is a wide range of representation and dispute resolution options. I'd be happy to provide some background information so you can make a better informed decision:

- **Representation** (No Attorney; Limited Service Attorney; Full Service Attorney)
- **Dispute Resolution** (Kitchen Table; Mediation; Collaborative; Court)