

**Mediation Services of Eastern Iowa**  
mediateiowa.org

**Checklist – Possible Issues to be Mediated in Divorce and/or Custody Cases**

Parties in divorce and custody cases: You are strongly encouraged to consult with an attorney about the legal and long-term ramifications of the following issues in your particular case before your first mediation session. You are also encouraged to continue consulting with your attorney between further mediation sessions so that you are informed about the legal aspects of any issues when you are discussing them in mediation. Using this checklist can help you get the most value from your time with your attorney and your mediator. You can discuss any issue you are both willing to discuss. In mediation you can make decisions on any issue except whether there has been domestic abuse.

**A. Parenting Agreement**

1. Time sharing schedule
  - a. School year
  - b. School breaks
  - c. Holidays
  - d. Parent and child birthdays
  - e. Vacations with children
  - f. Vacations without children
  - g. Time with extended family members
  - h. Schedule changes
2. Telephone access between children and parents
3. Transportation
4. Legal custody
5. Decision Making: Who wants to be included in decision-making on the following issues, how will joint decisions be made, how will any disagreements be handled
  - a. Categories
    - 1) Education
    - 2) Health
    - 3) Child care
    - 4) Children's activities
    - 5) Religion
    - 6) Motor vehicles and drivers' license
    - 7) Other
  - b. Procedure: How will joint decisions be made and how will any disagreements be handled
6. Communication / Information sharing
7. Religious training
8. Moving beyond the current geographical area
9. Periodic review

**B. Financial Support**

1. Child support
2. Spousal support
3. Post secondary education costs
4. Responsibility for children's expenses
  - a. Uninsured medical / dental / vision costs

- b. Activities
  - c. Clothing
  - d. Other
- 5. Life insurance on the children
- 6. Periodic Review
- C. Health Insurance**
- D. Life Insurance**
- E. Family Home**
- F. Other Real Estate**
- G. Household Goods and Other Personal Property**
- H. Vehicles**
- I. Business Ownership Interests**
- J. Stocks and Bonds**
- K. Bank Accounts**
- L. Other Assets**
- M. Outstanding Debts**
- N. Retirement**
  - 1. Pension and profit-sharing plans
  - 2. IRA accounts
  - 3. Other
- O. Tax Issues**
  - 1. Dependent deductions
  - 2. Child care deductions
  - 3. Filing for current year
    - a. Separate or joint
    - b. Disposition of refund
    - c. Responsibility for balance owed
  - 4. Capital gain taxes
- P. Attorney's Fees**
- Q. Future Mediation Clause: At what point in future disagreements will we use mediation?**
- R. Temporary Arrangements**
  - 1. Housing
  - 2. Parenting schedule
  - 3. Financial support
  - 4. Managing assets and debts
  - 5. Other
- S. Other**