

Parenting Coordination

How do I find detailed information on Parenting Coordination?

A person can find detailed information on parenting coordination by clicking on this hyperlink: [AFCC guidelines](#) .

How do I decide who to pick as a Parenting Coordinator?

Your decision to pick a parenting coordinator needs to be based on their experience, qualifications and background. Anyone can call themselves a parenting coordinator because it is an unregulated field. Ask the parenting coordinator if they have:

- arbitration certification, practical experience conducting arbitrations, the number of arbitrations they have done
- a coaching certification, how many coaching hours they have had with clients and the kind of coaching they have done (Life coaching? Parent coaching? Executive Coaching? Organizational or Leadership Coaching?)
- conflict management certification in mediation, negotiation, consensus building, and facilitation and how many mediations they have conducted and their area of experience (Family? Workplace?)
- parenting coordination certification, how many hours of training, how many cases have they had?
- regulatory oversight - [there are only three in Alberta – **Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW)**, **The Law Society of Alberta** and **College of Alberta Psychologists – (CAP)**]

Why do I have to be so concerned about a Parenting Coordinator having regulatory oversight with one of those organizations?

Because if the Parenting Coordinator you hire does not have a regulatory body involved in their practice and you have concerns about their conduct, you do not have anywhere to go to file a complaint after you have tried to resolve the issue on your own with that parenting coordinator.

How do I decide what service meets my needs -Parenting Coordination or Family Mediation?

Parenting Coordination meets your needs if a child focused approach rather than a family approach is needed in your situation. There are differences between mediation and parenting coordination. Some of those differences are as follows:

Overview of Services	Mediation	Parenting Coordination
A binding and enforceable legal award is written and provided to the parties to file at the Court House	No	Yes
A decision making process exists i.e. arbitration	No	Yes
A Mediator's Report is written up which is taken to a Lawyer	Yes	No
A Parenting Plan or Court Order Exists	Case Dependent	Yes
An ACT provides Authority for Services	No	Yes
Province of Alberta Legislation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Law Act • Arbitration Act
Decisions are binding	No	Yes
Education component (parenting)	No	Yes
Focus of the Service	Relationship Focused	Child - Focused
Individual Coaching	Yes	Yes
Length of Contract	Varies	1 year or as determined by the Courts
Level of Confidentiality	High	Limited
Level of Conflict	Low to Medium	Medium to High
Parties make a decision in the mediation process	Yes	Yes
Pre - mediation session	Yes	No

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Pre-hearing session	No	Yes
Risk assessment is completed	Yes	Yes
Separation Agreement defines the scope of the sessions	Case Dependent	Yes
Topic of First Meeting	Issues and Process	Process Only
Uses a <i>variety</i> of dispute resolution <i>tools</i> to assist the family	No	Yes e.g. facilitation, consensus building

How is that first contact with a Parenting Coordination made?

Essentially, I ask the parent who has made contact to email me and to copy in the other parent. When the parents have emailed back specifically stating an interest in Parenting Coordination, I send both parents a copy of my Parenting Coordination Agreement and Independent Legal Advice for them to read over and to take to their lawyer. When you understand the agreement and want to proceed with services, then your lawyer signs off the certificate.

Specifically what happens after the Independent Legal Advice is signed off by my lawyer?

I ask both parents to scan and email the signed certificate to me. After I have received both copies of the certificate, I assess if an initial joint meeting with both parents is wise. If it is, then a joint initial meeting is scheduled with both of you. At that initial joint meeting we review the contract, set up communication protocols, collect court orders or other legal documents, sign off release of information forms, and provide me with a date/ time for us to have an individual meeting time. Both parents are asked to complete an intake or assessment form and fax or scan/email it to me before this individual meeting. After those individual meetings have occurred, we set up future meeting dates to address your child related concerns.

How come I need a lawyer to sign off on a Certificate of Independent Legal Advice?

You might find this to be a critical step to take in this process. You will be getting objective and independent legal advice on the Parenting Coordination Agreement that will be signed between us and the other parent. Meeting with a lawyer to review the contract ensures you understand the nature and effect of the agreement and your underlying rights and responsibilities.

How long does the Parenting Coordination process last?

Typically 18-24 months, however, I contract with parents for a 12 month period of time.

How much does a Parenting Coordinator cost and how is payment made?

I charge an hourly rate and request a retainer and a security deposit. Fees vary from parenting coordinator to parenting coordinator. The overall cost depends on the amount of time the process takes. The shorter the time, the less expensive it will be. The cost of a parenting coordinator costs less than continued litigation.

Fees are paid by bank e-transfers, through PayPal or credit card.

Does my health care provider reimburse me for your fees?

Yes. Because of my RSW designation, some health care plans provide reimbursement. You would have to contact your plan to find out if you have coverage.