

## PREPARING FOR MY SOCIAL EARLY NEUTRAL EVALUATION PROCESS

### Please bring a picture of your child/children to the SENE session.

Each of the parties will be asked to tell the team members their “Story”. There is no right or wrong way to do this, but there are few things you should be sure to include:

#### 1. **Background:**

- a. Your relationship with the other party (how long knew each other, how long lived together, what led to the ending of the relationship, what are the positive attributes of the other party that first led you to getting together?)
- b. Living arrangements (where you live, with who, how long, where do the kids stay if they are there? How are the kids doing at your house?)
- c. Work (where, how long, what is your job, what are your hours, do you have flexibility in the schedule when a child is sick, etc.)

#### 2. **Your child or children**

- a. personality
- b. day to day routines (bedtimes/nap/meals, etc.)
- c. daycare/school schedules
- d. other activities (sports, extracurricular)
- e. religion
- f. child care arrangements

#### 3. **Your Goals**

- a. What are you proposing? (Specifics of times/days/etc.)
- b. Why is it important to you?
- c. Why is that best for child or Children?
- d. If you know other party’s proposal, what doesn’t work regarding that proposal?
- e. What good parenting skills does the other parent have?
- f. What good parenting skills do you have?
- f. How does your proposal help the children get enough time with each parent?

#### 4. **Holidays/vacation time**

- a. What is important?
- b. What is your proposal?
- c. Why is it best for child or children?
- d. How does it encourage time for the child or children with the other parent?

#### 5. **Bring a calendar**

## **TIMELINE OF A SOCIAL EARLY NEUTRAL EVALUATION SESSION**

- Introductions by neutral team (15 minutes)
- Presentation of parties (20 – 30 minutes each)
  - Self-presentation is key: very little to no reliance on the attorney (attorney role for guidance and or redirect to get you back on point)
  - Petitioner (typically) goes first. Note: If you are respondent do not react to petitioner's presentation: you should present as if you were first.
- Response from each party. This is where you can respond to the others comments. (10 – 15 minutes).
- Questioning by the neutral team (15 – 20 minutes)
- Neutral team will step out of the room to consult with one another (you can take a break) (15 – 20 minutes)
- Feedback from the neutral team (30 – 45 minutes)
- You and your attorney can talk with one another or if unrepresented you can talk to a family member/friend waiting outside of the room. (10 – 15 minutes)
- Negotiations- you can engage in settlement negotiations (1 hour)

**Early Neutral Evaluation sessions normally take 3 to 4 hours to complete.**