

## Parenting Time Expeditors?

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Parenting time expeditors help, in part, by keeping parenting time disputes out of the court system entirely. This almost always saves everyone involved time, money, and aggravation.

With a parenting time expeditor there is no attorney to pay, no filing fees to pay for motions, and no two- or three-month wait to get time with the judge.

A parenting time expeditor works to resolve parenting time disputes by *interpreting and enforcing an existing court order*. Some divorced parents never use the expeditor because no conflicts arise (this, sadly, isn't the norm). Others parents may use them once or twice. And the third group of divorced parents uses the parenting time expeditor often if not regularly.

Parenting time expeditors are supposed to attempt to resolve issues by mediating disputes between parents. If the parents are unable to reach an agreement between themselves than the expeditor will issue a written decision.

Once a dispute is brought to the attention of the expeditor, the expeditor will meet with the parties as soon as possible (typically within a day or so). Often the initial meeting is by telephone rather than in person.

If the expeditor is required to make a decision, the decision has to be *consistent with the existing order*. That is, the expeditor does not have the authority to create new schedules, alter the conditions of visitation, or modify the court order.

The decision may specify compensatory parenting time or other conditions, along with an award of attorney's fees and costs. The decision is generally drafted and mailed to each party and may come under review by the court holding jurisdiction if either party is not satisfied and/or requests a hearing.

An expeditor's decision is almost always subject to appeal in the court holding jurisdiction for a period of 14 days. **Once that period has elapsed then the right to have the matter addressed by the court is voided.**

Either party can formally request that the court remove the parenting time expeditor, but the moving party must show "good cause" for such a request (that is, the request must have some basis and merit, and not be frivolous in nature). The court may sanction a parent who requests removal of the parenting time expeditor and does not succeed.