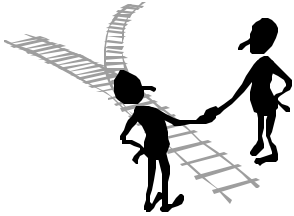


FOCUS ON THE KIDS



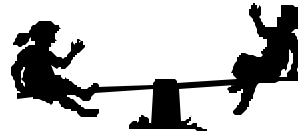
You probably agree on more than one thing about your children already. Try finding a few more.



Practice cooperation – on even one new thing.



There's probably more than one parenting arrangement that would meet your family's needs. Your kids need different things at different ages. Each of you has contributed to their upbringing, in different ways. Let the children benefit from your strong points.



KIDS DO BEST

Cooperation ✂ Cooperation
Marriage Divorce Post Decree

KIDS CAN DO OK

Conflict ✂ Cooperation
Marriage Divorce Post Decree

What will allow your children to focus on friends, school and soccer instead of what's going on in your divorce?

What will be the most help to you in continuing your good parenting skills and improving weaker ones? Your kids need your best during the divorce - and afterwards.



Litigation decisions are parenting decisions – what experience do you want your kids to have? How long do the things you set in motion now last? Until they're 18? Until they're 55? Do you both want to attend the christening for your first grandchild?

Can you solve problems with parenting time or other children's issues – in a way that does not hurt your kids? Which is the better choice: calling the police to assist you in picking them up on Christmas morning or deciding not to spoil Christmas and dealing with it the next day?

Custody trials:

- ? Cost money.
- ? Generate hard feelings that something go into the future.
- ? Are stressful for parents and kids.
- ? Divert parents' attention from kids' real issues to "winning" in the courtroom.
- ? Give the final say to the judge.
- ? Don't solve your problems with communication and cooperation.

The judge cannot order you to cooperate. Only the two of you can give that to your children.

The goal of The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers is *"To encourage the study, improve the practice, elevate the standards and advance the cause of matrimonial law to the end that the welfare of the family and society be preserved"*.

For information on the national organization see www.aaml.org; for information on the Minnesota Chapter see www.aamlmn.com or contact Executive Director Nancy Keyes at (952) 832-9986.

Feel free to make copies of this brochure.

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MANTRAS ON PARENTING AND DIVORCE



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