

DAUPHIN COUNTY CUSTODY CONCILIATION

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

A custody conciliation conference has been scheduled for your case. During the conciliation conference, the parties will meet with a conference officer who has been appointed as a neutral custody conciliator in an effort to reach a custody agreement. Agreements reached at conciliation are forwarded to the Court, who will enter a Custody Order reflecting that agreement. Historically, more than 80% of custody matters are successful in reaching an agreement at conciliation.

Below are some important terms and concepts to know for your conference.

Custody Order		The written document signed by a Judge directing where a child will live and how decisions will be made.
Legal Custody		The right to make major decisions on behalf of the child(ren), including, but not limited to, medical, religious, and educational decisions.
	Shared Legal	The right for both parents/parties to make major decisions on behalf of the child(ren) equally.
	Sole Legal	The right of only one parent/party to make major decisions on behalf of the child(ren). The other parties do not make any decisions.
Physical Custody		The day-to-day schedule of where the child(ren) will reside between the parents/parties.
	Primary Physical	The right to assume physical custody of the child(ren) for the majority of the time.
	Partial Physical	The right to assume physical custody of the child(ren) for less than a majority of the time.
	Shared Physical	Both parents/parties have significant periods of physical custody.
	Sole Physical	The right of only one parent/party to physical custody.
	Supervised Physical	Custodial time during which an agency or an adult approved by the Court monitors the physical custody of a parent/party.
Holiday Schedule		The physical custody schedule for holidays. The holiday schedule takes priority over the regular schedule and the vacation schedule. Parties can split, alternate, or share holidays based on even or odd years.
Vacation		Each party may be designated a certain number of consecutive overnights for vacation in one year. Parties are to provide at least 30 days' written notice of their intention to exercise vacation, and other important information that will be outlined in the custody order.
Transportation		How a child gets from one household to the next.

	Parties may agree to share transportation or agree to meet at a neutral location. Parties can also coordinate custody exchanges with school.
Relocation	A change in residence of the child(ren) that significantly impairs the ability of the other party to exercise custodial rights. Every custody order has a relocation provision. No party can move without consent or court approval.
Criminal Record/Abuse History Verification	All parties have a continuing obligation to notify all other parties and the Court of any changes to their criminal history, PFA history, and/or involvement with children and youth or other child protective services. Every custody order has a criminal record/abuse history provision.
Other standard provisions	The court frequently adds very standard and basic provisions to every custody order such as how to communicate, what is prohibited, and other miscellaneous provisions that are in the best interest of the child(ren).