



# Comprehensive Guide to Drafting a Parenting Plan in Pierce County

Drafting a parenting plan is a critical step in family law cases involving children, especially for unmarried parents who need an enforceable court order for visitation and custody. Below is a step-by-step guide to drafting a parenting plan in Pierce County, based on insights from family law attorney Beverly Allen.

## Step 1: Access Necessary Forms

Visit the [Washington Courts website](#) to obtain the forms needed for a parenting plan.

1. Go to the **Forms** tab on the homepage.
2. Select **All Forms by Topic** and navigate to the **Family Law** section.
3. Download the following key forms in Word format (for editing):
  - **FL Parentage 331**: Petition for a Parenting Plan.
  - **FL All Family 131**: Financial Declaration.
  - **FL All Family 139**: Declaration in Support of Parenting Plan.
  - **FL All Family 140**: Proposed Parenting Plan.
  - **FL All Family 330**: Summons.

## Step 2: Complete the Petition for Parenting Plan (FL Parentage 331)

1. **Basic Information:**
  - Fill in your name, the other parent's name, the child's name(s), and age(s).
2. **Parentage Details:**
  - Indicate how parentage was established:
    - *Acknowledgment of Parentage*: Provide the affidavit or birth certificate as proof.
    - *Court Adjudication*: Reference the court's decision if applicable.
  - Confirm whether 60 days have passed since the acknowledgment, as this affects the ability to contest parentage.
3. **Jurisdiction:**
  - State where the child has been living and whether Washington is the child's "home state" (resided for at least six months).
  - Include details of any third-party custody cases or other legal claims involving the child.
4. **Existing Orders:**
  - Confirm if there is an existing parenting plan or visitation schedule. If so, consider filing a petition to modify instead.

### **Step 3: Draft the Proposed Parenting Plan (FL All Family 140)**

This form outlines the specifics of custody and visitation. Key sections include:

1. **Section 4:**
  - Address any restrictions based on parental behavior (e.g., substance abuse).
2. **Section 8:**
  - Specify the child's residential schedule during the school year.
3. **Section 9:**
  - Define the summer schedule.
4. **Section 10:**
  - Set the holiday and vacation schedule, allowing for custom arrangements.
5. **Section 14:**
  - Add other important conditions, such as prohibiting discussions about the case with the child.

### **Step 4: Complete the Financial Declaration (FL All Family 131)**

1. **Income and Expenses:**
  - Break down monthly income using pay stubs or tax forms. Use the calculation method provided:
    - Weekly pay: Multiply by 4.33.
    - Bi-weekly pay: Multiply by 2.15.
    - Twice-a-month pay: Multiply by 2.
  - Detail monthly expenses, including childcare, housing, and utilities.
2. **Supporting Documents:**
  - Attach financial records, filed under a cover sheet (FL All Family 011).

### **Step 5: File and Serve the Forms**

1. **File with the Court:**
  - Submit all completed forms to the Pierce County Clerk's Office.
2. **Serve the Other Parent:**
  - Personally serve the other parent with:
    - Petition for Parenting Plan (FL Parentage 331).
    - Proposed Parenting Plan (FL All Family 140).
    - Summons (FL All Family 330).

### **Step 6: Declaration in Support of Parenting Plan (FL All Family 139)**

1. **Parenting Functions:**
  - Provide a narrative of your relationship with the child, including:
    - Daily caregiving responsibilities.
    - Work schedule and availability.
    - The other parent's involvement.
  - Address the child's needs and how you meet them.
2. **Supporting Information:**
  - Highlight any concerns about the other parent's ability to care for the child.

## Additional Resources

- **Washington Law Help:** [www.washingtonlawhelp.org](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org)
- **Pierce County Law Library:** Local support and resources.
- **Nexus Legal Counsel:** [nexuscounsel.law](http://nexuscounsel.law)
- **Nexus Legal Counsel Phone Number (M - F, 9am-5pm): (253)778-6376**

## Key Tips

- Ensure **all sections of each form are completed**. If something doesn't apply, indicate "Not Applicable."
- **Double-check details** like the child's living arrangements, existing orders, and financial calculations.
- Customize the parenting plan to reflect the child's best interests and family dynamics.

By following these steps, you can effectively draft and file a parenting plan that supports your child's needs and adheres to Washington law.