

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE PONCA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
WHITE EAGLE, OKLAHOMA**

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| |) | |
| Petitioner, |) | |
| |) | |
| vs. |) | Case No. _____ |
| |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

JUDICIAL ORDER FOR PROPER CONDUCT OF SEPARATED OR DIVORCED PARENTS

This Judicial Order is directed equally to both the Petitioner and the Respondent herein.

If there is bitterness between you, it should not be inflicted upon your child. In every child's mind there should always be an image of TWO GOOD PARENTS. Your future with your child and with this Court will be enhanced if you follow these guidelines.

1. **Choosing One Parent Over the Other.** The separation/divorce is not the child's fault. It is not because of anything they did. For the child, it is a confusing, frustrating experience over which they have no control. Children should not be made to feel like they need to choose sides when their parents are at odds.
2. **Blame for Separation/Divorce.** Children will tend to blame themselves for the separation/divorce and you must consistently reassure them that they are not to blame; that it happens to all kinds of children and that they are not alone. Help them with their fears by assuring them they will be taken care of.
3. **Conflict After Separation/Divorce.** Research is now suggesting that it is not the separation/divorce itself that hurts the children, but rather the conflict that they have to live with afterwards that results in maladjustment.
4. **Access to Both Parents.** It is important for the child to have access to both parents for a balance picture of male and female roles. They need your time and attention far more than presents. A child can love both parents more if he/she is not pressured to love one parent less. They will generally not feel very close to one parent who continually puts down the other and are quick to go for guidance to the parent who has a positive attitude towards life.
5. **A Third Party.** No party shall expose the minor child to an overnight stay of the opposite sex to whom they are not related for a period of one (1) year.
6. **Arguments and Fighting.** Your child's sense of who he/she is comes from both parents. He/she will be burdened if he/she is told of his/her other parent's shortcomings. Spare your child the painful experience of seeing his/her parents fighting. This only adds to the pain of separation/divorce and the feeling that the conflict is over them.
7. **Mourning.** Do your mourning with your adult friends and family rather than using your child as your therapist.

8. **Child as Messenger.** Do not use your visitation to continue argument with the other parent. Never quarrel in the presence of the child. You should not use the child as a messenger to communicate with the other parent.
9. **Questioning Child.** Keep your visitation as pleasant as possible for your child by NOT questioning him/her regarding activities of the other parent. Do not burden your child with the worries and troubles of adults. Do not discuss with them the details of any pending litigation matters.
10. **Drinking and Unreasonable Hours.** Do not visit or transport the child if you have been drinking excessively or are intoxicated. Do not attempt to visit or telephone your child at unreasonable hours.
11. **Keeping Scheduled Visitation.** Always notify the other parent as soon as possible if you are unable to keep your scheduled visitation. It is unfair to your child to keep him/her waiting and even worse to disappoint him/her by not coming at all. It is in the best interest of the child that scheduled visitation be timely. A visiting parent waiting or no parent present at the time the child is returned is an aggravation leading to confrontations in the presence of the child.
12. **Frequent and Continuing Contact with Both Parents.** When in the best interests of the child, it is the Court's policy to assure minor children of frequent and continuing contact with both parents and encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing. To this end, when awarding custody, the Court considers which parent is more likely to allow the child frequent and continuing contact with the non-custodial parent.
13. **Schedules of School, Church, or Extracurricular Activities.** It shall be the duty of the custodial parent to inform the non-custodial parent and provide copies to the non-custodial parent of all written schedules and notices of any school, church, or extracurricular activities or functions pertaining to your child; including, but not limited to: teacher conferences, open house, awards banquets, sporting events, school plays, report cards, test results, school photographs and similar items. It shall be the duty of the custodial parent to inform and provide copies of such to the non-custodial parent as soon as same is made available to the custodial parent. It shall be the duty of the custodial parent to take the necessary action with the school authorities to list the non-custodial parent's address and phone numbers and list the non-custodial parent as a person to be contacted in case of an emergency.
14. **Participation in Child's School, Extracurricular or Church Activities.** It shall be the duty of the non-custodial parent to facilitate your child's continued participation in your child's school activities, extracurricular activities, sporting activities or church activities during your visitation periods.
15. **Child's Clothing and Medications.** The custodial parent must prepare the child both physically and mentally for visitation. The child and necessities for his/her care should be available by the custodial parent to the non-custodial parent at the time mutually agreed upon or the time set by the Court. This includes clothing and medications. All items furnished by the custodial parent must be returned with the child, **including backpacks and schoolwork.**
16. **Address, Telephone Number and Serious Illness or Injury.** You are required to keep the other parent informed of any change of address and change of telephone number of yourself and the child at all times. All such changes must be reported immediately. You are required to inform the other parent at once of serious illness or injury to the child.

17. **Child Support.** Be prompt in paying child support exactly as ordered. You will not be credited with presents, clothes, etc., as part of child support. The parent who has a duty of paying child support must always maintain proof of payment and be able to prove the payment (i.e. receipts, cancelled checks, etc.).
18. **Child's Medical Attention.** The custodial parent shall promptly inform the non-custodial parent of any illness of the child which shall require medical attention. The custodial parent is responsible to the provider for all medical and dental expenses of the child over and above what is covered by the insurance. The custodial parent shall provide to the non-custodial parent documentation from the provider of the actual expenses, the amount paid by insurance and the balance owing. The non-custodial parent shall reimburse the custodial parent his/her percentage share as determined under the child support guidelines within thirty (30) days of receipt of such documentation.
19. **Medical and/or Dental Insurance.** The parent who has the responsibility of providing major medical and/or dental insurance, or any type of insurance for the minor children, or who has voluntarily provided insurance for the minor child, is required to keep the other parent informed of the proper name and address of the company, any changes in the benefits, any and all pre-admittance notices required of the company, benefit cards with dependent identification numbers, and any other information reasonably necessary to assure the children are covered and claims properly presented to the insurance provider.
20. **Visitation and Child Support.** The issues of visitation and child support are separate and distinct. Neither is dependent upon the other and both are independently enforceable by Contempt. Nonpayment of child support is not a ground the Court is to consider in contempt hearings for denial of visitation. Denial of visitation is not a ground the Court is to consider in contempt hearings for nonpayment of child support.
21. **Raising a Child in a Proper, Cooperative Way.** Each parent must realize that the most important job is to carry out the responsibility of raising children in a proper, cooperative way. Always work for the emotional well-being, health, happiness, and safety of your child. Use good judgment and your very best example to achieve these goals. Schedule regular dental and medical examinations. When driving, secure your child in seat belts or a safety chair. Never expose your child to excessive alcohol consumption or inappropriate or illegal drug use nor any dangerous, immoral, or illegal situations or circumstances.
22. **Contact with Court.** All parties are advised that it is improper and unethical to discuss any pending matter with the Court.

Effect of Failure to Follow Court's Directions. FAILURE to follow these directions may result in violation of the orders of this Court and may be punished by contempt of Court with a fine, imprisonment or both. Failure to follow these directions will be considered by the Court as a factor in determining the best interests of the child at any hearing before the Court. There may also be the additional expense of attorney fees and court costs, all of which can be better used for the benefit of your child.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

THE HONORABLE TOM LANE
Associate Judge of the District Court