

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
JUVENILE DIVISION**

**ORDER ON PROCEDURE FOR DIVISION 3:
PROVIDING FOR CO-PARENTING PLAN**

Having concluded that co-parenting is an essential requirement for a child to thrive while in out-of-home care, the following is hereby implemented in order to meet this goal:

1. An Icebreaker Meeting shall take place no later than four weeks from the Shelter Hearing when a child has been placed in foster care and the goal of the case is Reunification. This meeting shall include, at a minimum: the parent(s), the custodian(s), and the case manager.
2. No party shall discuss the allegations of the case during the meeting.
3. The parents and the custodians may bring a support group to the meeting within reason (i.e. a relative, a close friend, a mentor.) The case manager shall have discretion to limit the amount of individuals permitted at the meeting.
4. During this meeting, a co-parenting plan will be developed. The plan should be tailored to the specific case and shall address ways in which the parent(s) and custodian can maintain systematic and regular contact in order to serve the best interest of the child. The plan shall address the following (non-exhaustive list): a visitation schedule; the availability of frequent and regular contact in the form of telephone, texting, email, and/or social media; and parent attendance at medical and/or school appointments for the child.
5. This co-parenting plan shall be filed with the Court after it is completed. In cases where co-parenting is not appropriate, a co-parenting plan shall still be formulated and filed, but will indicate the reason why co-parenting is not appropriate.
6. The co-parenting plan shall be revisited as needed but shall be addressed, at a minimum, before each Case Plan Hearing and in case of a change in foster home. If appropriate, a modified co-parenting plan shall be completed and filed.
7. In the event that parent(s) will not or cannot participate in the development of the co-parenting plan, the Department shall include in the Case Plan an explanation of the circumstances and state the nature of its efforts to secure such persons' participation in the development of a co-parenting plan.
8. In order to commence this process, it further ordered that at the Shelter Hearing, an agency representative shall provide the parents and caregivers present with a letter of introduction to the agency that shall include, at a minimum: the agency name, the agency's contact information, and

the name and contact information of a case manager or court liaison who can be reached for more details.

DONE AND ORDERED ON THIS 10 DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.



**THE HONORABLE JUDGE SAMPEDRO IGLESIA
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE**