

HB 1820 -- Appointment of a Parenting Coordinator

Sponsor: Harris

This bill authorizes a court to appoint a parenting coordinator as a neutral third party to assist in the resolution of disputes between parents regarding the implementation of a court-ordered parenting plan. The parenting coordinator must have the appropriate training and qualifications acceptable to the court and must be a licensed mental health professional or a licensed attorney and be qualified under the Missouri Supreme Court rules governing family mediation. The coordinator will serve for a specified period of time but no longer than two years and will have the authority to resolve disputes between the parents regarding the implementation or clarification of existing orders concerning the minor or dependent children including, but not limited to, disputes over parenting time and specific parental decisions. The parenting coordinator is prohibited from making any modification to a court order, judgment, or decree except for temporary departures from a parenting plan. The court may order fees to be paid by the parties but will not appoint a coordinator if it finds that the parties do not have the means to pay the fees. A parenting coordinator will be immune from liability in any claim by the parties or children subject to the order for parenting coordination for an injury that arises out of a decision of the parenting coordinator during the performance of his or her duties unless the act or omission causing the injury was willful and wanton.