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6 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
7 **FOR KING COUNTY**

8 In re the Marriage of:

**NO. 20-3-03830-3 SEA**

9 Petitioner:

**PARENTING EVALUATION**

10 VERONIKA GOODNIGHT,

**[PUBLIC DOCUMENT]**

11 And Respondent:

12 MATHEW RALIDAK,

13  
14 **I. APPOINTMENT AND BACKGROUND**

15 This is an action to establish a parenting plan for the parties' three children:  
16 Elora (age 6), Aidan (age 4) and Raina (age 2). The children's parents, Veronika  
17 Goodnight and Mathew Ralidak, resided together from 2014 to 2020. After Veronika  
18 moved out in January 2020, the parties agreed to a residential schedule of alternate  
19 weeks for the children. In the summer of 2020, Veronika filed an action to establish a  
20 formal parenting plan confirming the shared schedule. In response, Mat sought a  
21 temporary order placing the children primarily with him. The court maintained the  
22 schedule of alternate weeks as a temporary parenting plan. In addition, the court  
23 appointed the undersigned to complete a parenting evaluation. The order requests  
24 investigation into all issues related to making a parenting plan for the children as well  
25 as mental health and substance abuse issues for Veronika.

Mat relocated from Duvall to Everett while this matter was pending. He is seeking a parenting plan that places the children primarily in his care and has them attend school in Everett. He argues that Veronika is emotionally and economically unstable, suffers from an alcohol problem, and should not have primary care of the children. He proposes Veronika have residential time three weekends a month from Thursday to Sunday so that the children can spend most of their schooldays in his care.

**PARENTING EVALUATION**  
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Veronika resides in Carnation, Washington. She proposes that the children continue to alternate residential weeks between the parents' home. In part because of the geographic distance between the parents' homes, she proposes that the children be home schooled. She alleges that Mat is controlling and emotionally abusive, that he abuses marijuana, and that his employment requires him to travel too much for the children to reside primarily in his care.

## II. INFORMATION FOR THE REPORT

This Parenting Evaluation is based on the following information:

- A. Video Interview with Mathew Ralidak – April 12, 2021
- B. Video Interview with Veronika Goodnight – April 13, 2021
- C. Document Review (see below)
- D. Telephone Interview with Diana Muggli – April 16, 2021
- E. Telephone Interview with Monica Galarneau – April 16, 2021
- F. Telephone Interview with Larisa Ignacio – April 19, 2021
- G. Telephone Interview with Deborah Oaks – April 19, 2021
- H. Telephone Interview with Amisha Zuber – April 21, 2021
- I. Telephone Interview with Marcus Berley, MA, LMHC – April 23, 2021
- J. Telephone Interview with Ann Ralidak – April 26, 2021

## III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Guardian ad Litem recommends the following:

- A. Substance Use Evaluation for Mother. The mother should complete a substance use assessment from a licensed provider such as Associated Behavioral Health. The evaluation should include a period of random UA testing and collateral contact with the father. The mother should abstain from all alcohol, marijuana, illegal drugs, and non-prescribed medications pending the results of the evaluation (and thereafter if recommended by the evaluation). A copy of the final evaluation should be provided to both parents. The mother should comply with any recommendations from the evaluation.
- B. Psychiatric Evaluation. The mother should complete a psychiatric assessment with Sea Mar Community Health Centers and comply with any recommendations from said assessment. The evaluator should be provided a copy of this parenting evaluation as well as the prior mental health assessment from Sea Mar. The father should be provided with a copy of the completed assessment. The mother should comply with the recommendations from that evaluation and provide written verification she has done so.

C. School Year Schedule. Assuming that the mother is in compliance with the requirements of Section A and B above, the children should begin residing in her primary care commencing with the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Under this outcome, the children should attend school in the Riverview School District (they should attend regular classes and not be home schooled unless otherwise agreed by both parents). The children should reside with the father on alternate weekends from Thursday after school until Sunday evening at 6 p.m. In addition, the father may travel to the mother's home and spend residential time on alternate Thursday evenings with the children from after school until 7 p.m. If the mother is not in compliance with the requirements of Section A and B above by the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year, the children should reside in the primary care of the father and the above residential schedule should be reversed with the children attending school at the public school associated with the father's residential address. In order to be deemed in compliance with Sections A and B above, the mother must have completed the evaluations but need not have completed any associated treatment recommendations (though she should immediately enroll). Should either parent relocate such that the parents reside within the same school district, the parent children should reside equally with both parents on a schedule of alternate weeks (i.e. same as the current temporary parenting plan).

D. Summer Schedule. During the summer, the children should reside equally with both parents in the summer on a schedule of alternate weeks (i.e. same as the current temporary parenting plan).

E. Transportation. Transportation should be provided by the receiving parent PROVIDED THAT the visiting parent should provide all transportation for the mid-week evening visit recommended on alternate Thursdays.

F. Holiday Residential Time: The children should spend Mother's Day with the mother and Father's Day with the father from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The parents should alternate having the children on holidays including Thanksgiving Weekend, Memorial Day Weekend, Labor Day Weekend, Halloween, and July 4<sup>th</sup>. If the schedule for Thanksgiving Weekend, Memorial Day Weekend, or Labor Day Weekend results in a parent having the children for two weekends in a row, the other parent should have the children for the following two weekends after which alternation should resume.

G. Winter Break. The parents should share residential time over Winter Vacation. The children should reside with the mother for the first half of Winter Vacation and with the father for the second half in even years. In odd years, this schedule should be reversed. The vacation should commence when school

lets out and end when school resumes with the dividing point occurring at noon on Christmas Day.

H. Spring Break. The children should spend Spring Vacation with the mother in even years and with the father in odd years. The vacation should be defined as commencing the Sunday after school lets out at 6 p.m. and ending the Friday before school resumes at 6 p.m. so as not to disrupt the alternating weekend residential schedule.

I. Mid-Winter Break. If the children's school district has a mid-winter break, the children should spend Mid-Winter Vacation with the mother in odd years and the father in even years.

J. Both parents should be restrained from making negative or derogatory comments about the other parent in front of the children, including negative comments about the other parent's relatives or significant other. Both parents should be restrained from discussing this litigation with the children. Neither parent should show any court documents or this report to the children or allow the children to have access to such documents. Both parents should be restrained from encouraging the children to make negative comments about the other parent or the other parent's significant other. Both parents should be restrained from discussing child support terms with the children.

K. The parents should make major decisions on behalf of the children jointly. Both parents shall have equal access to the children's school records, teachers, doctors, and other providers. Disputes about joint decisions or about what portions of the parenting plan mean should be submitted to mediation with a designated mediator.

L. Each parent shall provide the other parent promptly with receipt of any significant information regarding the welfare of the child, including physical and mental health.

M. Neither parent shall advise the children of the status of child support payments or other legal matters regarding the parental relationship and obligation.

N. Neither parent shall use the children, directly or indirectly, to gather information about the other parent or take verbal messages to the other parent.

O. Neither parent shall ask the child to make decisions or requests involving the residential schedule with the child except for plans which have already been agreed to by both parents in advance.

P. If a parent is traveling out of state with the children (or any of the children), he/she shall provide advance notice to the other parent including a general itinerary and contact information.

Date: 4/30/2021

DocuSigned by:

Matthew Jolly

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Matthew Jolly, WSBA #23167  
Parenting Evaluator