

April 14, 2005

H 1221. PARENTING COORDINATOR ESTABLISHED. TO ESTABLISH THE APPOINTMENT OF PARENTING COORDINATORS IN DOMESTIC CHILD CUSTODY ACTIONS. Enacts new Article 5 of GS Chapter 50 to provide for the appointment of parenting coordinators to assist parties in resolving issues related to parenting and other family issues. Authorizes court to appoint parenting coordinator upon entry of a custody order or parenting agreement and allows appointment in any divorce, child custody, or child support case where minor children are involved, upon motion of the court or motion or agreement of the parties unless any party objects. Provides that role of parenting coordinator is to assist parents in implementing custody and visitation orders; reduce conflict between parents; facilitate parents' relationship with the children; resolve any issues in implementation of parenting plan until further court orders are entered; and empower parents to successfully resolve conflicts over their children on their own. Specifies educational and experience qualifications for appointment as a parenting coordinator. Provides that coordinator is entitled to reasonable compensation for services to be paid by parties in accordance with court's order and requires fee to be paid before coordinator begins duties. Requires parties to abide by any decision of parenting coordinator resolving disagreement until matter is reviewed by court. Requires coordinator to notify court, parties, and attorneys in writing if he or she determines that existing custody order is not in best interests of the child or there exist issues in the case that the parenting coordinator is not qualified to address or resolve. Requires coordinator to provide attorneys and parties with any written summaries of developments that are made following every meeting. Specifies how court may terminate or modify parenting coordinator order and immunity of coordinator. Effective October 1, 2005.

Intro. by Hackney.

Ref. to Judiciary I

GS 50

May 25, 2005

H 1221. PARENTING COORDINATOR ESTABLISHED. Intro. 4/14/05. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Modifies proposed GS 50-91 to clarify that the court may appoint a parenting coordinator at any time during the proceedings upon its motion or by motion or agreement of the parties as long as a party does not object, but that upon the entry of a custody order or parenting agreement, the court may appoint a parenting coordinator without the consent of the parties. Makes technical changes.

May 26, 2005

H 1221. PARENTING COORDINATOR ESTABLISHED. Intro. 4/14/05. House amendment makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Revises definition of "high-conflict case" in proposed Article 5 of GS Chapter 50 to include Chapter 50 cases involving minor children with an ongoing pattern of "excessive litigation" (formerly, "litigation"). Clarifies that parenting coordinator may be appointed upon the entry of a custody order other than an ex parte order. Removes requirement that releases, contracts, and consents be signed by the parties at the appointment conference.

July 5, 2005

H 1221. PARENTING COORDINATOR ESTABLISHED. Intro. 4/14/05. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Makes several stylistic and organizational changes, and makes the following substantive changes: (1) adds a provision specifying that the parties may agree to limit the parenting coordinator's decision-making authority to specific issues or areas; (2) provides that the court may enter an order appointing a parenting coordinator in the absence of agreement of the parties only if it makes specific findings that the action is a high-conflict case, the appointment is in the best interests of any minor child in the case, and the parties are able to pay for the cost of the coordinator; (3) specifies that the order of the court is to specify the issues the coordinator is directed to assist in; (4) specifies that the parties, their attorneys, and the proposed parenting coordinator must all attend the appointment conference; and (5) specifies that the parenting coordinator is to be paid by the parties.

July 7, 2005

H 1221. PARENTING COORDINATOR ESTABLISHED. Intro. 4/14/05. Senate amendment makes the following changes to 4th edition. Prior edition provided that to remain eligible, a parenting coordinator must attend monthly seminars. Amendment removes the requirement that attendance be monthly.

July 28, 2005

SL 2005-228 (H 1221). PARENTING COORDINATOR ESTABLISHED. AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE APPOINTMENT OF PARENTING COORDINATORS IN DOMESTIC CHILD CUSTODY ACTIONS. Summarized in *Daily Bulletin* 4/14/05, 5/25/05, 5/26/05, 7/5/05, and 7/7/05. Enacted July 27, 2005. Effective October 1, 2005.