

A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

As a divorced parent of two school-aged children and a step-parent, I am **uniquely qualified** to provide parenting services for conflicted parents. I have walked a similar path, shared similar frustrations, felt similar concerns and fears. I've experienced an adversarial divorce and its negative impact on parenting. I've used mediation and hired a Parenting Coordinator. My parenting partner and I transformed our high conflict relationship into an effective and cooperative parenting partnership and I know how to help you succeed too.

I believe children need and want both parents to be significantly involved in their lives. Fathers and Mothers are each **irreplaceable**—they are the only two people who can give their children what they need from a mother or father.

I believe parents are experts about their family's life. All of my services are **client-centered** and encourage self-determination. My clients are **empowered** to control their own outcomes.

I believe parenting partners need a bridge between their individual and separate lives in order to succeed. I know how to help you build your own **parenting bridge** and I know how to help you succeed.



AMBER M. SERWAT MEDIATION

*efficient
effective
respectful*

PRACTICE AND PHILOSOPHY

I offer professional parenting services which are efficient, effective and respectful. My process encourages parents to work toward independent agreements and resolves parenting disputes in a timely manner when independent efforts fail. Two key components of my philosophy are developing successful Parenting Partnerships and conserving financial resources.

Unfortunately the legal system does not facilitate a smooth transition from marriage partner to parenting partner, nor does it provide timely assistance when parents are in conflict. In my opinion, the traditional legal system fractures families and devours substantial financial resources. I learned the hard way with my own divorce and now I am dedicated to helping parents succeed in spite of the crisis. I provide real life, workable solutions for families suffering with conflict.

Real success is possible - it takes hard work, dedication and some solid professional assistance.

QUALIFICATIONS

MN RULE 114 QUALIFIED NEUTRAL

MN EARLY NEUTRAL EVALUATOR (Social and Financial)

MASTER OF ARTS IN
ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP
College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE OF
DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, MN

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FAMILY RESOURCES AND
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Amber's complete résumé is available online.

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Visa, MasterCard and Discover Accepted.

Alternate locations also available – call for details.



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efficient effective respectful

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES *for* CONFLICTED PARENTS





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Parenting Partners

Parenting Partners are parents who share children but are not involved in an intimate relationship with each other. They may be divorced, separated or never-married. Ideally the parenting partnership is effective, cooperative and child-focused.

When it is not, children get caught in the middle of parental conflict. Parenting Partners who struggle to find common ground often deal with poor communication, inflexibility, non-compliance with agreements, “win-lose” thinking, and high levels of conflict. This environment makes it extremely difficult to parent effectively. Unfortunately, law enforcement and the Courts do not offer easily accessible, cost-effective, or timely solutions.

A professional parenting specialist can help. My parenting services are geared toward resolving conflict, making child-focused decisions and establishing effective parenting behaviors. Parenting disputes are not easily solved from the outside; ultimately, the work must be done by the parents. As your parenting specialist, I guide you and your parenting partner as you navigate your way to success. Together we develop workable agreements with clear expectations, behavioral guidelines and accountability.

Parenting Services

Parenting Time Expeditor (PTE):

A PTE resolves parenting time disputes without expensive and adversarial legal processes. Use of a PTE is court ordered. PTEs may be selected by the court or by mutual agreement of the parents and formalized in a court order. PTEs have authority to enforce, interpret, and clarify existing parenting time court orders. They may also address parenting time issues and circumstances which are not specifically identified in an existing court order. A PTE is typically appointed for an ongoing period of time, often for a year or more. During this time, either parent may submit a parenting time dispute to the PTE for resolution. After conferring with both parents (and any other persons who may contribute to the solution) the PTE either facilitates an agreement or renders a legally binding parenting time decision. The process is efficient, timely, cost effective, and intended to minimize conflict and promote fairness.

Parenting Coordinator (PC):

A PC resolves a broad spectrum of parenting disputes without expensive and adversarial legal processes. Use of a PC is decided by mutual agreement of the parents and must be appointed by the court. PCs have authority over many types of parenting disputes including but not limited to: parenting time, holiday schedules, communication, school placement, education, activities, medical protocols, transfers, childcare, and discipline. PCs have authority to enforce, interpret, and clarify existing court orders and Parenting Plans. They may also address parenting issues and circumstances which are not specifically identified in an existing court order or Parenting Plan. A PC is typically appointed for an ongoing period of time, often for a year or more. During this time, either parent may submit a disputed parenting issue to the PC for resolution. The PC pro-

cess is a combination of coaching, facilitation and decision making. After coaching and conferring with both parents (and any other persons who may contribute to the solution), the PC either facilitates an agreement or renders a legally binding parenting decision. The process is efficient, timely, cost-effective, and intended to minimize conflict, promote fairness, and improve parenting relationships.

Parenting Coach:

A Parenting Coach provides individual guidance and assistance to a parent who wishes to more positively contribute to the Parenting Partnership and/or more effectively manage their response to negative parenting behaviors. Assistance may focus on: improving communication, making successful transitions, creating reasonable boundaries, addressing a sensitive topic and managing the impact of a new spouse.

Parenting Mediation:

A cost effective and efficient process designed to facilitate resolution of ongoing or new parenting issues (which arise after divorce/break-up) without Court intervention. Examples include: creating workable and detailed Parenting Plans, managing a parent’s residential move, recalculating child support, defining the holiday schedule, adjusting the parenting schedule to accommodate the children’s changing needs, and managing medical issues. During this process the mediator acts as a neutral facilitator of agreements and is not a decision maker. Mediated agreements may be formalized by filing them with the Court.

Divorce Mediation:

A cost effective and efficient process designed to end the marriage relationship as economically and efficiently as possible as well as maintain your ability to parent effectively after the dust settles. Divorce mediation addresses all required components of a legal divorce settlement while protecting your financial resources.