

1 SENATE BILL 355

2 **55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF  
12 A PARENTING COORDINATOR IN A PROCEEDING IN WHICH A CHILD  
13 CUSTODY ORDER IS ISSUED.

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

16 SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 40, Article 4 NMSA  
17 1978 is enacted to read:

18 "[NEW MATERIAL] RESOLVING DISAGREEMENTS IN EXISTING  
19 CUSTODY ORDERS--APPOINTMENT OF PARENTING COORDINATOR.--

20 A. In a proceeding in which the court has issued a  
21 custody order, the court may appoint a parenting coordinator  
22 upon the court's own motion or the motion of any party.

23 B. The parenting coordinator may:

24 (1) facilitate the parties in implementing an  
25 existing child custody order and mediate disagreements between

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1 the parties when the parties disagree as to the interpretation  
2 of a custody order or the best interest of the child; and

3 (2) upon agreement of the parties, arbitrate  
4 disputes relating to the interpretation of an existing custody  
5 order; provided that when the parenting coordinator acts as an  
6 arbitrator, the parenting coordinator shall not arbitrate  
7 matters not conferred on the parenting coordinator pursuant to  
8 the appointing order. Unless the authority is expressly given  
9 to the parenting coordinator in the appointing order, the  
10 parenting coordinator shall not make decisions that alter the  
11 custody or primary residence of the child.

12 C. An appointed parenting coordinator serves as an  
13 arm of the court and assists the court in discharging its duty  
14 to protect the best interests of the child.

15 D. Expenses, costs and fees of the parenting  
16 coordinator may be allocated among the parties as determined by  
17 the court."