Should I use a coparenting app?

Text messages, phone calls and email are familiar. Add a shared calendar, an expense spreadsheet and folders of receipts, and coparenting information quickly spreads across several places. Finding an agreement or following a conversation takes extra work.

What is a coparenting app?

A coparenting app brings messages, schedules, tasks, expenses and records into one place. It keeps daily arrangements organized and creates a shared history for agreements, professional support and court review.

Questions to help you choose which app is best for your family

1 How much does it cost each parent?

Some coparenting apps offer free versions, while others require paid subscriptions. Some require both parents to pay and commit to a year or more. Others offer monthly billing or let each parent subscribe independently.

2 Who can join the app?

Some apps require both parents to join; others work when only one parent joins. Some also include family members, older children and professionals. Families choose who they want involved.

3 How is communication handled?

Messaging is standard. Read receipts, replies, reminders and controls for message volume or content vary. Some apps include AI support for filtering messages or drafting replies. Decide if AI support might help your situation.

4 What other coordination does it offer?

Shared calendars are common. Other tools include parenting-time changes, tasks, shared expenses, reimbursement requests, document storage and reminders, with different combinations offered by each app.

5 What records and reports does it offer?

Apps differ in message histories, journals, call recordings and downloadable reports. Some provide certified records for court; others offer basic exports. Report fees and included access also vary.

6 What platforms is it available on?

Apps are available across iPhone, Android, web browsers and desktop computers. Availability and features differ by platform, including calling, uploads and downloading records.

What coparenting apps offer over just texting and calling

Unalterable records: Timestamped messages preserve what was said without later edits. Built-in verification helps establish authenticity and supports accountability when records are shared with professionals or presented in court.

All-in-one: Texting, calls and separate to-do lists are familiar. One place for structured communication, schedules and shared details makes it easier to keep plans on track and reduce conflict.

Attorney access: Many apps let attorneys, mediators and other professionals view communication histories and reports directly, making support easier to provide without compiling screenshots from different messaging apps.

How to get a coparenting app court ordered

A shared choice and a clear written agreement make it easier to use an app consistently.

What if my court recommends one app over another?

A recommendation identifies an option; a court order sets requirements. If both parents agree another app would work best for their family, they can write it into their parenting plan and submit it for court approval. Courts encourage parents to reach agreements, and judges may not be familiar with every app or its latest features. If an existing order names an app, use it and follow the order's process for changes, including court approval when required.

Can records from the app be used in court?

Courts evaluate the records themselves, including their relevance and authenticity. Complete histories, timestamps and verification help show who communicated and when. Those details make records easier for attorneys and judges to evaluate under the court's evidence rules.

Language for your parenting plan

Sample wording to adapt with your mediator or attorney. Complete the brackets and align the language with any existing orders.

1. App and purpose. Beginning [date], the parents shall use [app name] for routine child-related communication, schedules, requests and shared expenses. Each parent shall create and maintain an account. Messages shall focus on the children and practical parenting arrangements.

2. Plans and costs. Parent A's access shall be [plan or free access], costing [amount and billing period], paid by [name or allocation]. Parent B's access shall be [plan or free access], costing [amount and billing period], paid by [name or allocation]. Each parent shall pay for optional upgrades they choose unless otherwise agreed in writing.

3. Checking and responding. Each parent shall check the app [frequency] and respond to routine requests within [number] hours of receipt. Time-sensitive child-related matters shall use [agreed contact method], with a summary recorded in the app.

4. Records and professional access. The parents shall document agreed schedules, expense decisions and changes in the app. Access for attorneys, mediators or other professionals, and sharing of reports, shall follow [agreed permissions] and applicable court orders.

5. Changing the arrangement. The parents shall continue using [app name] even if its pricing changes. Any change to the app, required paid plan or cost allocation requires written agreement and any necessary court approval. If use of the app is court-ordered, both parents shall continue using it until the court modifies or vacates that requirement.

Which coparenting app is right for me?

The top four coparenting apps bring different strengths to communication, organization and documentation. Here is what makes each stand out:

App	What stands out	Cost per parent (USD)
AppClose	**All-in-one coordination.** Messaging, recorded calls, schedules, expenses and court-ready records in one subscription.	Plans start at $7.99/month or $83.88/year on the web. Both parents must pay for access. No free plan as of 2026.
BestInterest	**Prevent conflict before it starts.** Message filtering and tone coaching keep everyday communication focused on your children.	Offers free access; each parent can choose to subscribe independently. Free communication, calendar, task lists and expense tracking. Paid plans start at $9.99/month or $99.99/year.
OurFamilyWizard	**Structured parenting and documentation.** Detailed communication records, schedules, expenses and professional access support agreements and court review.	Plans start at $110/year, billed annually. Both parents must pay for access.
TalkingParents	**Communication accountability.** Unalterable messages, recorded calls and transcripts create a clear record for professional and court review.	Plans start at $7/month or $77/year. Both parents must pay for access. Court reports start at $55 for 24-hour access; included on higher plans.

For more information

AppClose
appclose.com

BestInterest
bestinterest.app

OurFamilyWizard
ourfamilywizard.com

TalkingParents
talkingparents.com

This free resource was compiled by BestInterest, Inc as a guide for parents considering coparenting apps. App options ordered alphabetically and presented neutrally. Pricing updated Oct 2026.