



# Top 5 Co-Parenting Tool Apps: Comprehensive Analysis

Created by Teresa Sneed for National Family Justice ([nationalfamilyjustice.org](http://nationalfamilyjustice.org))

Co-parenting after separation or divorce can be challenging, but specialized apps can help streamline communication, scheduling, and expense tracking. Based on recent reviews and user experiences, here are the top five co-parenting tools available in 2025, with their advantages and limitations.

## 1. Our Family Wizard (OFW)

Our Family Wizard consistently ranks as the most recommended co-parenting app, particularly for high-conflict situations.

### Pros:

- Court-approved in all 50 states, often court-ordered in custody cases
- Comprehensive shared calendar with color-coding for events and custody schedules
- ToneMeter feature that analyzes message tone and flags potentially inflammatory language
- Tamper-proof messaging system where messages cannot be deleted or edited
- Expense tracking with receipt uploads and in-app payment options
- Information Bank for storing important documents and information
- Journal feature for sharing photos and updates about children
- First-viewed timestamps show exactly when messages are read

### Cons:

- Relatively expensive at approximately \$100/year, with some features behind premium paywalls
- Can be time-consuming and complex to use
- Some users report it's overpriced for basic functionality
- **Selective message downloading capability allows users to cherry-pick which messages to include when creating reports, potentially enabling misrepresentation of communication history in court proceedings**
- The comprehensive feature set may be overwhelming for some users

## 2. AppClose

AppClose has gained popularity as a free alternative with many of the same features as premium apps.

### **Pros:**

- Completely free to use
- Court-approved and recommended by attorneys
- Integrated calendar and scheduling tools
- Expense tracking with receipt uploads
- Tamper-proof messaging system
- Built-in audio and video calling that automatically documents attempted, missed, and completed calls
- Attorney access for monitoring communication

### **Cons:**

- Some parents report difficulty amending or deleting scheduled events
- Less name recognition than OFW in court settings
- Mixed user reviews about interface and functionality
- May lack some advanced features of paid alternatives

## **3. Talking Parents**

Talking Parents focuses on secure communication and documentation for co-parents.

### **Pros:**

- Designed for effective communication between co-parents
- Tamper-proof messaging for court documentation
- Appears to be recommended for high-conflict situations
- Secure platform for sensitive discussions
- Court-accepted records

### **Cons:**

- Less detailed information available about specific features
- Not as frequently recommended in reviews as OFW or AppClose
- May lack some functionality of more comprehensive apps
- Limited information about pricing structure in current reviews
- User interface not as extensively reviewed as other options

## 4. Cozi

While not specifically designed for co-parenting situations, Cozi offers a straightforward approach to family organization.

### Pros:

- Free to use with basic functionality
- Simple, intuitive interface
- Color-coded shared calendar for easy schedule visualization
- To-do lists and meal planning features
- Can include extended family members, babysitters, and other caregivers
- Streamlined approach for less contentious co-parenting situations

### Cons:

- No built-in expense tracker or dedicated messaging service
- Not specifically designed for co-parents or legal documentation
- Lacks conflict-reduction tools like tone analyzers
- No tamper-proof messaging for court documentation
- Limited features for high-conflict situations

## 5. Custody X Change

Custody X Change focuses on creating and implementing parenting plans.

### Pros:

- Comprehensive parenting plan templates
- Shared calendar displays custody split by percentage
- Evidence organizer for tracking expenses and journal entries
- Communication system with hostile language detection
- Helpful for initial custody arrangements and negotiations
- 30-day free trial available

### Cons:

- More complex than other co-parenting apps
- App only available for download from their website, not standard app stores
- Requires subscription after trial period
- May have a steeper learning curve than alternatives
- Less frequently mentioned in reviews than OFW or AppClose

## Conclusion

When selecting a co-parenting app, consider your specific needs, budget constraints, and the level of conflict in your co-parenting relationship. Our Family Wizard offers the most comprehensive feature set but comes with higher costs and **the potential issue of selective message reporting**. AppClose provides a free alternative with solid functionality, while Talking Parents focuses on secure communication. Cozi offers simplicity for less contentious situations and Custody X Change excels at parenting plan creation.