

Client Questionnaire

Please fill out this questionnaire and return it as soon as possible. It is important that you answer each question fully.

It is imperative that you be candid!

You should answer all questions relevant to your case. If a question does not apply to your particular situation, please indicate by marking the question "N/A." If the answer to any question requires more space than has been provided on the form, please complete your answer on a separate sheet: Refer to the question number to which your answer applies and attach your answer to this questionnaire.

Your responses to these questions will help to organize your case and will save you money on attorney's fees in trying to gather and assemble information after the case is in progress.

Since your answers are being made to an attorney, you are assured of confidentiality and are protected by the attorney/client privilege.

ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE ASSERTED AS TO ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

a. If you want sole custody of your children, please tell me why you think you should have sole custody in 50 words or less and attach it to this worksheet.

b. State the period of time in which the current nesting living arrangement has been in effect:

c. Names and addresses of schools children attend, dates attended and name of teacher or principal there who is familiar with child:

Child's name:

School:

Address:

Dates attended:

Grade:

Teacher or principal:

Child's name:

School:

Address:

Dates attended:

Grade:

Teacher or principal:

Child's name:

School:

Address:

Dates attended:

Grade:

Teacher or principal:

CARE OF THE CHILDREN:

To the extent that both you and your spouse or ex-spouse have shared the responsibilities listed below, describe the degree to which the responsibilities have been shared:

Who helps the children get dressed in the morning?

Who bathes the children and grooms them?

Are any of the children nursing?

Who takes care of the children during the day?

Who arranges for getting children together with playmates?

Who puts the children to bed at night?

Who prepares meals?

Who arranges for medical and dental care and takes the children to doctor's appointments?

Who takes the children to school?

Who picks the children up from school?

Who shops for the children's clothes?

Who transports the children to extracurricular activities?

Do you or your spouse participate in recreational or educational activities with the children?

Describe the nature of the activities and how often you and your spouse or ex-spouse participate in them?

Do the children receive religious training?

If so, from whom?

Who arranges the children's birthday parties?

Who helps the children with their homework?

Who attends parent-teacher conferences?

Are the children more likely to turn to you or to your spouse or ex-spouse when they have problems?

Do you feel the children are closer to you or your spouse or ex-spouse?

Are the children in day-care or with a sitter?

If so, how many hours per week?

Give name, address and telephone number of the day-care service or sitter:

Who arranges for the day-care or sitter?

Who cares for the children when they are ill?

Who disciplines the children?

By what method?

Has the division of responsibility for child care changed over the years?

If so, describe:

TIME AVAILABLE TO SPEND WITH THE CHILDREN AND PLANS FOR THEIR FUTURE CARE:

What are your working hours?

What time do you leave home?

When do you return?

Do you have flexible working hours?

Does your work require travel?

If so, what distances and amounts of time?

Is your work schedule likely to change in the future?

What are your plans for child care?

Describe your housing arrangements, including number of bedrooms:

What are your spouse's or ex-spouse's working hours?

What time does your spouse or ex-spouse leave home?

When does your spouse or ex-spouse return?

Are your spouse's or ex-spouse's working hours flexible?

Does your spouse's or ex-spouse's work require travel?

If so, what distances and amounts of time?

Is your spouse's or ex-spouse's work schedule likely to change in the future?

What are your spouse's or ex-spouse's plans for child care?

Describe your spouse or ex-spouse's housing arrangements, including number of bedrooms:

SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN:

Do the children have any special or unusual educational or health care needs?

If so, describe them:

Who has worked to meet those needs?

Are you or your spouse or ex-spouse better able to meet those needs?

Has the children's academic performance changed in the last few years or months?

If so, what is the reason for the change?

INTERFERENCE WITH OTHER PARENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILDREN:

Have you or your ex-spouse interfered with the child's relationship with the other parent or spoken badly about the other parent to the child?

If so, explain:

Have you or your ex-spouse blocked the other parent's visitation with the children?

If so, explain giving dates and frequency with which visitation was blocked:

Have you or your ex-spouse discouraged the child from having a good relationship with a stepparent or a "significant person" in the other parent's life?

If so, explain:

COOPERATION BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE OR EX-SPOUSE:

How well have you and your spouse or ex-spouse been able to cooperate on matters concerning the children and on matters concerning visitation or access to the children?

To what extent do you and your spouse or ex-spouse share values regarding how the children should be raised, what type of education they should have, and what type of religious training they should have (if any)?

FREQUENCY OF MOVES AND PLANS TO MOVE:

Have you or your ex-spouse moved in the last ten years?

If so, when and where (include moves in the same city)?

Do you or your spouse or ex-spouse plan to move in the near future?

If so, when and where?

Does the parent who is not moving oppose the move?

Why?

"SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET" AND SENSITIVE TOPICS:

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU BE OPEN AND HONEST IN ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. ANY DISCUSSION RELATING TO ANY OF THESE TOPICS BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR ATTORNEY WILL BE PROTECTED BY THE ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE. IF YOU FAIL TO BE HONEST WITH ME IN ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS, IT COULD BE ABSOLUTELY DISASTROUS TO YOUR CASE.

IF AN ANSWER TO ONE OF THE QUESTIONS BELOW IS "YES," PLEASE DESCRIBE THE SITUATION IN DETAIL.

Have you or your spouse or ex-spouse:

committed a felony?

been arrested?

been in jail or prison?

used illegal drugs?

abused prescription drugs?

abused alcohol?

been arrested for or convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol (drunk driving)?

engaged in gambling activities (legal or illegal)?

engaged in other illegal activities?

attempted suicide?

been hospitalized for an emotional or psychiatric disorder?
suffered from or received treatment for an emotional or psychiatric condition?
abused your spouse?
abused your child?
had a sexual relationship during the marriage with someone other than your spouse?
had a sexual relationship (during or not during the marriage) with someone other than your spouse of which the children were aware? If so, describe the children's reaction to the relationship and the children's feelings about the person(s) involved in the relationship?

had a homosexual relationship?
engaged in unusual sexual practices?
had a pregnancy outside of marriage?
had a venereal disease?
drunk socially? If so, what do you drink and with what frequency?

If you or your spouse or ex-spouse have a relationship with a person whom the children see frequently and that person would answer "yes" to one or more of the preceding "skeleton in the closet" questions, describe the situation:

Do you or your spouse suffer from any physical disability that would interfere with being able to care for the children?

CHILDREN'S PREFERENCES:

Have the children told you with whom they want to live?

If so ...

What is the basis for the preference?

How strong is the preference?

How long has the preference been held?

Has the preference changed?

How would you feel about the children talking to the judge regarding their preferences?

CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS:

How do the children get along with each other?

How do the children get along with stepparents?

How do the children get along with stepbrothers and stepsisters?

Do the children have a particularly close relationship with either or both sets of grandparents?

Do the children have a strong relationship with anyone else that you believe is important?

GOALS:

What are your future goals with the children and reasons for your goals?

To what extent do you believe that you and your ex-spouse should have joint custody(sometimes referred to as "shared parental responsibility") under which you both would share equally in making major decisions affecting the child and/or being with the child for substantial periods of time?

What are your spouse's future goals with the children and the reasons for those goals?

Have you and your ex-spouse attempted to work out a settlement of the case between yourselves? What progress have you made? What are your positions?

WITNESSES:

Who do you think would make good witnesses for you and what do you think the testimony would be? Possible witnesses include neighbors, the children's teachers, friends, doctors, babysitters, day-care workers, clergy and family members.

Name:
Address:
Home Telephone:
Business Telephone:
Testimony:

Name:
Address:
Home Telephone:
Business Telephone:
Testimony:

Who do you think will be witnesses for your spouse or ex-spouse and what do you think will be the testimony of those persons?

Name:
Address:
Home Telephone:
Business Telephone:
Testimony:

Name:
Address:
Home Telephone:
Business Telephone:
Testimony:

PLEASE TYPE A CHRONOLOGY OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR HUSBAND FROM DATE OF MARRIAGE THROUGH PRESENT AND ATTACH TO THIS WORKSHEET.