

BANAS FAMILY LAW P.A.

2113 CLIFF DRIVE EAGAN, MINNESOTA 55122 PHONE: 651-361-8109 FAX: 651-452-8316

The enclosed custody and parenting time questionnaire is a tool for your attorney to fully understand your matter and to better prepare your case. While this questionnaire may seem daunting, it is important that you fill out each and every question to the best of your ability. If a particular question does not apply to you or your situation, simply state "N/A". This is not a "pass or fail" test – so don't panic. Your answers will assist us in preparing your case. Before you start answering the questionnaire, however, feel free to review some information about the evaluation process.

The Role of an Evaluator: The evaluator's position is neutral; that is to say he/she has no personal stake in your case. He or she is not your friend, counselor, or advocate, even if you were the person who requested the evaluation. Therefore, never assume that the evaluator is your advocate. His or her job is to objectively assess what is in the best interest of the child/ren.

Honesty: Be honest. Never, under any circumstances, lie to the evaluator. If he or she believes that you are not being truthful, it will reflect very poorly on the final outcome for you.

Be Prepared: Be sure to keep every appointment with the evaluator; always arriving on time. It is a good idea to be prepared with a list of questions you have. You may also find it helpful to jot down any additional questions during the interview.

First Impression: First impressions are critical. Make sure your entire home is clean and orderly. It might seem insignificant, but it is actually important for you to consider the impression one might have of your overall parenting skills by just looking in your refrigerator or bathroom. In addition, keep your kids' school and health records easily accessible and organized in the event the evaluator requests them.

Stay Positive: You will have an opportunity to express any concerns you have regarding the other parent. Now is not the time to "bad mouth" your ex in any way. Make the effort to objectively share the strengths and weaknesses you observe. Most importantly, do not make any allegations against the other parent that cannot be supported with specific evidence.

It's all about the kids: Don't mix marital concerns with parenting concerns. Being a poor spouse doesn't make a person a bad parent. Using your interview with the evaluator to recount your ex's poor choices and insensitivity in relation to your marriage will not help you gain custody of your child/ren. It could even create an impression that you would be reluctant to support their interaction with the other parent. Be prepared to genuinely discuss what is in the best interests of your children.

Be Cooperative: Answer all of the questions asked by the evaluator; making sure to follow through on everything the evaluator asks of you. Be prepared to sign releases permitting the evaluator to speak with other individuals who have relevant information.

Relax: Be yourself. Let the evaluator observe the warm interactions you have with your children. Have games and books handy for them during the home visit. Seeing the kids thriving in your home setting, as opposed to being glued to the TV or video game system, will leave the evaluator with a real sense of the warm atmosphere you've worked so hard to create.

We have compiled a list of questions frequently asked by custody evaluators. Please answer the following questions so that we may best represent you and your children as your case progresses.

CLIENT NAME:

1. Please set forth the names and ages of each child:

2. Was Each Child's Birth Planned: Y N

3. If not, please describe the circumstances:

4. Please describe any significant problems involved in the pregnancy/pregnancies.

5. Please describe what you like "best" about each child:

6. Please describe what you like "least" about each child:

7. What Activities do you enjoy most with each of your children:

8. Please describe the relationship between your children:

9. Are there any relative, family friends, or other adults that any of your children particularly like or are attached to? Please describe:

10. Describe any "social" event you have planned for your children:

11. Describe any organized groups or activities that your children are currently involved in: How have you participated:

12. Please describe the activities your children have been involved in the past: How did you participate:

13. Please indicate for which activities you enrolled each child:

14. Please describe how you and your (ex) spouse decided on which activities to enroll each child in:

15. Are there any future activities you would like to enroll your children in:

16. Please describe each parent's involvement – now and in the past – in the following:

Selecting child care:

Transportation to and from child care:

Making and attending medical appointments:

Transportation to medical appointments:

Making and attending dental appointments:

Transportation to dental appointments:

Setting up school conferences:

Attending school conferences:

Attending performances and other activities at school:

Volunteering at school:

Arranging play dates:

Planning birthday parties:

Attendance at religious events:

Bathing the children:

Putting the children to bed at night:

Getting the children up and ready in the morning:

17. Please describe any bedtime routine you currently have with your children:

18. What is each child's current time to get ready for bed and lights out:

19. What is each child's current wake up time and morning routine:

20. Please describe the current arrangements for before and after school care for each child:

21. Please attach a list of all current and past child care providers (for children who are 10 and under).

22. Please describe your proposal for future summer care of each child:

23. Describe each child's adjustment or attachment to:

Home:

School:

Community:

24. Please describe each child's physical health – past and current:

25. Please attach a list of names, addresses, and phone and fax numbers of all medical and dental care providers for your children:

26. Is your child taking any medication: Y N

Please describe:

27. Please describe any social or emotional problems each child has had:

28. Has your child received any services from a mental health professional:

Y N

Please describe:

29. Please attach a list of names, addresses and phone and fax numbers for all mental health providers for your children:

30. Please list all of the school each child has attended:

31. Please describe each child's academic performance:

Which subject is easiest for each of your children?

Which is the most difficult:

Please describe any special services your children have received at school:

31. Please attach a copy of your children's most recent report card(s)

32. Most parents have problems in raising children. What problems have you had with your children:

33. What things do you find that you most often have to punish your children for doing:

34. Most parents find that on occasion they have to spank their children. How has that been for you? How often do you find yourself having to spank your children?

35. When was the last time and for what reason did you spank each child:

36. How have you handled your children's temper tantrums:

37. Please describe any differences between you and your (ex) spouse in disciplining your children:

38. How often and for what reasons has each child slept with you:

39. How often and for what reasons has you're (ex) spouse slept with the children:

40. How often and for what reasons has your (ex) spouse bathed with the children:

41. Have you ever had any concerns that someone was sexually inappropriate with your children: Y N

42. How have you handled your children's curiosity about bodies and sexuality:

How has your spouse handled this:

43. Please describe your children's TV and video (movies) watching and any rules you have about this:

44. Please describe any concerns you have about TV and video (movies) watching by your children in the other parent's care:

45. Please describe your children's use of the internet and any rules you have about this:

46. Please describe any concerns you have about the use of the internet by your children in the other parent's care:

47. How have you handled bickering and fighting between your children:

48. How did you "learn to parent"?

49. Please describe your strengths as a parent:

50. Please describe your weaknesses as a parent:

51. Please describe your (ex) spouse's weaknesses as a parent:

52. In the course of parenting your children, what do you consider to be the best thing you've done for them:
53. In the course of parenting your children, what do you consider to be the worst mistakes you've made:
54. Please describe any changes you want to make in your parenting:
55. Please describe how you told your children about the divorce and any conversations you have had since then:
56. Please describe any measures you have taken to learn about the impact of divorce on children:
57. Describe the current parenting schedule:
58. Has there been another parenting schedule you have followed since the separation: Please describe:
59. Do you help pay for your children's activities: Y N
60. If so, how do you contribute? If not, why not?
61. How do you propose to handle children's expenses that are not covered by child support?
62. Please describe how you manage money:
63. Any other person(s) living in household:

64. Describe the major cause of this marriage dissolution:
65. If you have remarried or if you currently have a significant other in your life, please give that person's name, date of birth, address and place of employment:
66. Please describe how you met:
67. Please describe when and how you introduced him/her to your children:
68. Please list the names and ages of all children of your spouse / significant other:
69. If you are not currently in a relationship, please describe when and how you plan to introduce someone you are dating to your children:
70. Please describe your current work schedule, including the time you leave in the morning and get home at night:
71. Please describe any prior work schedules that differed from the above:
72. Please list your schooling and educational attainment, including specialized training (name of institution, degree or certification, year received):
73. Please attach a list with all past employment for the last 10 years: (name of employer, dates of employment, job description, and reason for termination).
74. Did you ever receive any special education services: Y N
75. Please describe your special education issues:
76. Please describe your current physical health and any significant problems you have had:

77. Please attach a list with the names, address and phone and fax numbers of your current doctor(s) and any you have consulted in the last three years.

78. Please describe any concerns you have about your (ex) spouse's physical health:

79. If you have ever been hospitalized as an adult (other than for childbirth), please attach a description of the condition(s), name and location of the hospital(s), date(s), and name and phone and fax numbers of the treating physician(s).

80. Have you ever received any counseling or psychotherapy: Y N

81. Please attach a list with the names, addresses, phone and fax numbers and approximate dates of service for all mental health providers:

82. Please describe the issues you have addressed or are addressing in therapy:

83. Have you ever taken any psychological or employment testing: Y N

84. Please provide names, addresses, and phone numbers for any professionals who have administered testing to you.

85. Has your (ex) spouse had any mental health issues I should know about? Please describe (summary and details)

86. Have your (ex) spouse ever received any counseling or psychotherapy: Y N

87. Please describe what you know about these services:

88. Please describe your current use of alcohol:

89. Have you ever drunk to excess? Please describe:

[]

90. Please describe your current use of prescription medication:

[]

91. Please describe any problems you have had with the use of prescription or non-prescription drugs:

[]

92. Most people have problems growing up. Please describe any that you experienced:

[]

93. What types of trouble did you get into as a youngster:

[]

94. As a child, who typically punished you, and how?

[]

95. What was the worst thing you ever did as a child?

[]

96. What was the worst punishment you ever received and from whom:

[]

97. While growing up, did you have any experiences of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse: Y N

If yes, please describe:

[]

98. Does your (ex) spouse have a childhood history of physical, emotional or sexual abuse: Y N

If yes, please describe:

[]

99. Briefly describe the role of religion in your life when you were a child:

[]

100. What is the role of religion in your life currently:

[]

101. Please describe any significant religious differences with your spouse:
102. Please identify your religion and that of your (ex) spouse, if different:
103. Do you currently take your children to a place of worship during your parenting time? Yes No
104. If yes, please identify the place of worship, whether you are a member, and, if so, for how long:
105. Please list any other places of worship you have attended in the last 10 years:
106. Please describe your role in promoting your children's participation in religious or cultural activities:
107. Have you had any motor vehicle violations: Y N
108. If yes, please attach a copy of your motor vehicle record.
109. Has your (ex) spouse had any motor vehicle violations: Y N
110. Have you ever been charged with a misdemeanor or felony: Y N
If yes, please attach a copy of your record from the bureau of criminal apprehension
111. Has your (ex) spouse ever been charged with a misdemeanor or a felony:
Y N
112. Have you had any significant financial problems including bankruptcy or "bad checks"? Please describe:
113. If you have any consumer debt, please identify the purchases you have made that contributed to this debt:
114. Has domestic abuse occurred in your household: Yes No
If yes, please Describe:

Please attach copies of any police reports, requests for orders for protection, harassment orders, and orders for protection.

115. Are your children aware of the domestic violence: Y N

Please Describe:

116. Has Child Protection Ever Been Involved with your family: Yes No

117. Do you have any firearms in your home: Y N

If yes, please describe the guns you have and where they are kept:

118. Does your (ex)spouse have any firearms in the home: Y N

If yes, do you have any concerns about this?

119. Do you or anyone else in your household smoke? Please Describe:

120. Do you have any concerns about your (ex) spouse's smoking? Please describe:

121. Please describe your use of seatbelts and child safety seats:

122. Do you have any concerns about your (ex)spouse's use of seat belts/child safety seats? Please Describe:

123. Please describe the role of exercise in your life:

124. Please describe how your children exercise while in your care:

125. Please describe your current residence and your plans to remain there or move:

126. How long have you lived there:

Please attach a list of all previous residences in which your children have lived:

127. If anyone lives with you, please describe these circumstances:

128. Do you plan to change your children's school(s) in the next two years:

Y N

If yes, please explain:

129. Do you hope to move out of your county of residence within the next two years:

Y N

If yes, please explain:

130. Please describe your involvement in organizations and activities, including volunteer work:

131. Please describe your two best friends:

132. Please describe how often you get together with them and what you do:

133. Please describe other social events you participate in alone or with your children.

134. In the course of your marriage what do you consider to be the greatest mistakes you've made:

135. Describe how you and your (ex) spouse made parenting decisions while you lived together, including any areas of significant disagreement:

136. Describe how you and your (ex) spouse currently make parenting decisions, including any areas of significant disagreement:

137. What method have you used to try to resolve parenting disagreements:

[Empty text box]

138. Please describe how you explained the divorce to your children:
[Empty text box]

139. Please describe how you talk about your (ex)spouse with your children:
[Empty text box]

140. Briefly describe the relationship you have with the person with whom you are currently involved in this litigation.
[Empty text box]

141. If you are remarried or have a significant other, please describe that person's involvement in your children's life.
[Empty text box]

142. Please describe your efforts to maintain or improve cooperation with your (ex) spouse.
[Empty text box]

143. Please describe your (ex) spouse's efforts to maintain or improve cooperation with you.
[Empty text box]

144. Please describe your plan to maintain or improve cooperation with your (ex) spouse in the future.
[Empty text box]

145. Please describe the dispute resolution process you propose using after custody has been determined:
 Mediation
 Parenting Consultant
 Therapist
[Empty text box]

146. Are you seeking: Joint Legal Custody Sole Legal Custody

147. Please describe your understanding of the differences between the two.
[Empty text box]

148. Please describe why you are seeking joint or sole legal custody.
[Empty text box]

149. If you are requesting joint legal custody, please describe the types of decisions that should be made together.

150. Please describe the method you propose for making these decisions jointly.

151. Please describe the types of decisions you believe do not need to be made jointly.

152. Are you seeking: Joint Physical Custody Sole Physical Custody.

153. Please describe what types of information you will provide to the other parent if you are determined to be the parent with sole physical custody:

154. Please describe what types of information you want the other parent to provide you if s/he is determined to be the parent with sole physical custody.

155. Please attach two different proposed parenting schedules:

Proposed Schedule 1:

Proposed Schedule 2:

156. Please describe your proposal for sharing holidays and which holidays you would like included in your parenting plan (the following is only a sample and offered only as an example)

Holiday	Even Numbered Years	Odd Numbered Years
Labor Day Weekend	Mom	Dad
MEA (school release)	Dad	Mom
Halloween	Mom	Dad
Thanksgiving	Dad	Mom
Winter Break	Mom	Dad
Christmas Holiday	Dad	Mom
New Years Eve/Day	Mom	Dad
President's Day Weekend	Dad	Mom
Spring Break	Mom	Dad
Easter	Dad	Mom

Memorial Day Weekend	Mom	Dad
Fourth of July	Dad	Mom
Mother's Day	Mom	Dad
Father's Day	Dad	Mom
Mother's Birthday	Mom	Mom
Father's Birthday	Dad	Dad
Child(ren) Birthday	Mom	Dad
Other significant family holidays	Dad	Mom

157. Please describe your proposal for vacations.

158. Please describe your proposal for transportation between the two homes.

159. Please describe your proposal for telephone access between you and your children.

160. How have you and your (ex) spouse handled any needed changes in the access schedule.

161. If you believe there has been interference in your parenting time with the children, please describe.

162. Please describe your three most important goals in raising your children.