

## CUSTODY QUESTIONNAIRE

### CASE NUMBERS:

### BACKGROUND

1. What is your name?
2. What is your date of birth?
3. What is your current residence address?
4. What are the names and dates of birth of the children who are the subject of this custody action?
5. Where have the children resided for the past five years and with whom have they resided?
6. What is the address of the home where the children be living with you?
7. What interest do you have in that home? In other words, do you own or rent the home or are you a guest in the home? For what period of time have you lived there?
8. If you intend to move in the near future, what will the address of your new residence be? When do you intend to move?

9. What is the name and age of the party opposing you in the custody case?

10. What relationship is that party to you?

11. How long have you known the other party? If you are/were married, what were the dates of your marriage, separation or divorce?

12. Where have the children attended school or day care in the last five years?

13. What grade are the children now attending in school?

14. What is your occupation?

15. What is the other party's occupation?

**PRIOR CUSTODY LITIGATION**

16. Have you been involved in a previous dispute that resulted in a court hearing regarding the children who are the subjects of this litigation? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

17. If the answer is yes, state the name and location of the Court which heard the case.

18. If the answer is yes, attach a copy of the Court's order in that case.

**PRIOR SOCIAL SERVICE INVESTIGATIONS**

19. Has Children & Youth Services, or similar agency of authority ever contacted you, your current spouse, the other parent or any party to this litigation regarding an investigation for allegations of abuse or neglect or sexual abuse of a child?

\_\_\_\_ yes      \_\_\_\_no

20. If the answer is yes, state the name of the Department, the City/County and State where the investigation took place.

21. If the answer is yes, state what the investigation concluded as to whether the case was founded or unfounded, i.e. what was the outcome of the investigation?

22. Have any of your children ever been in foster care? \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_no

23. If yes, state the name of the child, the dates the child was in foster care and the Children & Youth Services agency which had custody:

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_ Dates in C&YS care \_\_\_\_\_ C&YS agency \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

24. State the names of all persons who reside in your home, both children and adults”

Name                      Relationship to you                      Sex    Birth date                      Grade in school

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

25. What is the name, address and telephone number of your current employer?

26. How long have you been employed with your current employer?

27. What are your work hours?

28. What time do you leave home for work and what time do you return home each day?

29. Do you work weekends?

30. Do you work nights?

31. Do you travel on your job or are you on call in the evenings?

32. State the names, addresses and telephone numbers of your employers for the past three years:

Name of employer                      Address                      Telephone #    Dates of work there

33. What is your current annual income? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was your annual income for the calendar year preceding this litigation?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Do you expect any increase or decrease in your income in the near future? \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, explain:

34. Describe your educational background.

35. Describe your job skills including a brief description of the types of work you are capable of doing.

**CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC RECORD**

36. Have you ever been convicted of a crime including a traffic offense?  
      \_\_\_\_yes        \_\_\_\_no

37. If yes, state the crime.

38. If yes, state the name of the court and the City/County and State where you were convicted.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH HISTORY**

39. Describe you current physical health condition.

40. Describe the current health condition of the other parties in this case.

41. Describe the current health condition of the children who are subjects of this litigation.

42. Do the children have any special health problems such as allergies, hyperactivity, etc. which one parent has more background or better skills if dealing with?

\_\_\_\_yes      \_\_\_\_no

If yes, explain.

43. Name the children's doctors and dentist:

44. Have you ever met with the children's doctors or taken the children to their doctors for regular checkups or during illnesses?

45. Do you believe the children have received adequate health care and routine wellness visits?

46. If not, describe what you believe the deficiencies to be:

47. Who has been the person primarily responsible for taking the children to the doctor and dentist in the past?
48. Do you claim that the physical health of a parent or child is an issue in this litigation? If yes, explain why.
49. Do you have health insurance that covers the children?
50. State the cost of the insurance (do not include the cost for you, only the cost attributable to the children and attach a letter from your employer or health care provider to prove the cost).

#### **MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY**

51. Describe your current mental health condition including drug and alcohol abuse.
52. Have you ever been treated by a psychologist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health problem or drug or alcohol problem?

53. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment.
- a. State the date of your treatment.
  - b. State the diagnosis you were given.
  - c. State the medicines you were prescribed.
54. Are you currently being treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health problem or a drug or alcohol problem? If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment.
55. Are you currently taking any type of medication as a result of such treatment?  
If yes, what is the medication?
56. Have you ever been hospitalized for a mental health problem, including a drug or alcohol problem?
57. Has anyone ever suggested or referred you for evaluation on treatment for alcohol or drug problems?
- a. If so, did you have such an evaluation or treatment?
  - b. Did you complete such an evaluation or treatment?
  - c. Did you decline such an evaluation or treatment?



58. Describe the mental health condition of each child who is the subject of this litigation.

59. Have any of the children who are the subject of this litigation ever been treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health problem or a drug or alcohol problem?

60. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment and the name of the child receiving treatment.

a. State the date of the child's treatment.

b. State the diagnosis the child was given.

c. State the medicines prescribed for the child.

61. Are any of the children who are the subject of this litigation currently being treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health problem or a drug or alcohol problem?

62. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment.

63. Are any of the children who are the subject of this litigation currently taking any type of medication prescribed as a result of this treatment? If yes, what is the medication?

64. Have any of the children who are the subject of this litigation ever been hospitalized for a mental health problem, including a drug or alcohol problem?

65. If yes, state where the hospitalization occurred and when it occurred.

66. Describe the mental health condition of the other party to this litigation, including drug and alcohol abuse.

67. Has the other party to this litigation ever been treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health problem or a drug or alcohol problem.

68. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment.
- (a) State the date of treatment rendered to the other party in this litigation.
  - (b). State the diagnosis given to the other party in this litigation.
  - (c) State the medicines prescribed to the other party in this litigation if known to you.
69. Is the other party in this litigation currently being treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or other mental health practitioner for a mental health problem or a drug or alcohol problem?
70. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment.
71. Has the other party to this litigation ever been hospitalized for a mental health problem, including drug or alcohol problem?
- (a) If yes, state where the hospitalization occurred and when it occurred.
72. Describe your usage of alcohol, prescription and nonprescription drugs.
73. State the usage of alcohol, prescription and nonprescription drugs by either party to this litigation.

## **MARITAL HISTORY**

74. What is the name of your current spouse?
75. Do you and your spouse live together?
76. If not, explain briefly the reasons for the separation.
77. Have you ever been married before? \_\_\_\_ If yes, how many times and to whom?
78. Do you have children from prior marriages or relationships?
79. Describe the relationship between these other children and the children whose custody/visitation is before the Court.
80. If these children have not already been named in response to Question 24 state their names and ages here
- (a) Who has custody?

(b) If you do not have custody, explain the circumstances of your not having custody.

(c) If there is a custody litigation regarding these children, state the name and address of the Court in which the litigation took place.

(d) Attach a copy of the Court order regarding custody of these children.

### **NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN**

81. State whether any of the children who are the subject of this litigation have any special needs (reflecting either a physical or emotional need).

82. If yes, state which child or children and state the exact nature of the special need.

83. State which party to the litigation can better provide for the special needs of the children and why.

84. Describe the needs of each child who is the subject of this litigation and describe other important relationships each child has, including but not limited to the child's relationship with brothers and sisters; friends and peers; and extended family members. State which person as custodian can better meet these needs and why/how:

85. Does the child have any "changing developmental needs" of which the court should be aware and, if so, what are they and which parent is better able to meet these needs and why?

86. What is your child's strongest subject in school and why?
87. What is your child's weakest subject in school and why?
88. Who are your child's school teachers?
89. Have you met with these teachers? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no
90. Has your child been referred to the guidance office? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no
91. How many times has your child been referred to the guidance office and for what reason?

## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EACH PARENT AND CHILD**

92. Describe the relationship between you and each of your children who are a subject of this litigation.

93. Describe the relationship between the other parent or party to this litigation and each of the children.

94. State which of you has a better relationship with the children and why you have come to this conclusion.

95. Describe what, if any, positive involvement you have had in each child's life.

96. Describe what, if any, positive involvement the other parent has had in each child's life.

97. State which parent is better able to meet the emotional, intellectual and physical needs of each child whose custody is at issue in the proceeding. Give examples which indicate the reason for your position.

98. As between the parents, state which parent has a greater ability to have a positive impact on the child's development and why.

### **ROLE OF EACH PARENT IN THE CHILD'S UPBRINGING**

99. State the role you have played in the past and the role you will play in the future in the upbringing and care of the children who are the subject of this litigation.

100. State the role the other parent or party to this litigation has played in the past and the role you see that party playing in the future regarding the upbringing and care of the children who are the subject of this litigation.

### **WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PARENT**

101. What type of relationship do you believe the children should be allowed to have with the other parent or party to this litigation?

102. What would you be willing to do to encourage a good relationship between the children and the other parent or party to this litigation? And how?

103. What have you done in the past to encourage a good relationship between the children and the other parent or party to this litigation?



104. If you are granted custody, describe the visitation you believe the other parent or party to this litigation should have.

105. If you are not granted custody, what type of visitation are you requesting?

106. What has the other parent or party to this litigation done in the past to encourage or discourage the children's relationship with you?

107. Has the other parent or party to this litigation demonstrated a willingness and ability to maintain a close and continuing relationship with the children? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no  
Explain:

108. Have you demonstrated a willingness and ability to maintain a close and continuing relationship with the children? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no  
Explain:

109. Describe your ability or lack of ability and the other parent's ability or lack of ability to cooperate with one another in matters affecting the child/children. Give examples of past conduct.

## **PREFERENCE OF THE CHILD**

110. Are your children aware of the current Court proceeding? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

111. How did they become aware of the current Court proceeding?

112. State whether the child has discussed the issue of custody with you or with anyone else to your knowledge.

113. If you are aware of the child's custodial preference, state what the preference is and how you are aware that the child has a custodial preference.

114. In order for the Court to consider the child's custodial preference, the Court must find that the child is of reasonable intelligence, understanding, age and experience to express a preference. Explain why you believe the Court should or should not consider the child's custodial preference.

## **HISTORY OF FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER ABUSE**

**Family or household member abuse is defined in the Code as any act of violence including any forceful detention, which results in physical injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of serious bodily injury, as between family or household members.**

115. Do you have evidence that the other parent or party to this litigation has committed such abuse on a family or household member? If so, explain in detail and list the names of any witnesses.

116. Did the case result in a Court action?

117. If yes, state the name and address of the Court.

118. Attach a copy of any Court Order that resulted from a finding that the person had committed family or household member abuse.

119. Have you ever committed family or household member abuse?

If yes, explain.

### **PARENTING AND RELATIONSHIP SKILLS**

120. What do you consider to be your strengths and weaknesses as a parent or custodian?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

121. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the other parent or party to this litigation?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

122. What are some of your successes and failures in life and how did you handle them?

123. How have you taught your children to deal with success and failure?

124. How do you show affection, joy, anger and sorrow in relating to those who are close to you?

125. If you are currently married or living with someone, how is this relationship different from past relationships?

126. Describe how the children interact with the other people who live in your household.

127. Describe how the children interact with the people who live in the other parent or party's household.

128. The Court is concerned with finding the person who has the temperament, parenting skills and personality which best meet the needs of the children. Describe your temperament, parenting skills and personality and state how those traits will meet the needs of the children who are the subject of this litigation.

129. Describe the temperament, parenting skills and personality of the other parent or party to this litigation and state how those traits will or will not meet the needs of the children.

130. State whether or not the other parent or party to this litigation has ever abused or neglected the children, either physically or emotionally. If so, explain and give facts and a time reference as to when you allege the abuse or neglect took place.

131. Describe the stability of the home environment you have to offer the children and compare it to the stability of the home environment the other parent or party has to offer.

132. What do your children add to your life?

133. What do you add to the lives of your children?

134. What educational goals do you have for the children who are the subject of this litigation?

135. What moral and spiritual expectations do you have for the children?

136. State what you have done to help the children achieve these educational, moral and spiritual goals.

137. What extended family members (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins) live in the area who could assist you with the care of the children, if needed?

138. Describe the relationship each child has previously had with these family members.

139. Describe your child's personality and maturity (identify each child by name).

140. Have you ever experienced any emotional, behavioral or school related problems with your child? If yes, please describe nature of problem and how it was handled.

141. What are the rules and responsibilities for children in your home?

142. How do you discipline your children?

143. Describe an average day with the children in your care from the time you get up to the time you go to bed.

144. State what activities you and the children have participated in together in the past. (For example: movies, going to the park and museums, sports, music lessons, Bible school.) Give a time reference.

145. State what activities the other party and the children have participated in together in the past. Give a time reference.

146. What are your children's feelings about the other parent?

147. How did you explain the divorce and/or separation to your children?

148. How did you explain the present court action to your children?

149. In your opinion, what role should a stepparent play in a child's life?

150. Have you exposed the children to any immoral influences, such as having your boyfriend or girlfriend spend the night when the children were in your home or allowing the children to see inappropriate movies or literature? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain.

151. Has the other parent or party done so? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain.

### **CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS**

152. What child care arrangements have you made for the time you are at work? State the name, address and telephone number of the person or child care center which will be providing this service.

153. State the number of hours per week the children will be in child care.



154. State the days of the week and hours of the day the children will be in child care.

155. What is the cost of this child care?

### **PRESENT COURT ACTION**

156. If you are asking for a change in custody from that which has previously been court-ordered, state why a change is in the best interest of the children.

157. If this is the first time the issue of custody or visitation has been presented to the Court, state why you believe it is in the best interest of the children to be in your custody rather than being in the custody of the other parent or party.

158. What steps have you taken to resolve the conflict prior to filing an action with the Court?

159. If you have an attorney representing you in the present Court litigation, state the name, address and telephone number of your attorney.

### **HOME ENVIRONMENT**

160. Describe the home in which you plan to have the children reside or visit. Attach pictures of your home and attach pictures of you, your family members and the children. State how long you have lived at this location and describe the neighborhood.

## VERIFICATION

I verify that the statements made in the attached questionnaire are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information or belief. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. Section 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

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(circle one)  
Signed by Plaintiff or Defendant