

Custody Evaluations – Suggested Report Outline

- A. Identification of Case
 - a. Parties and minor children
 - b. Legal issues and standards
 - c. Referral source(s)
 - d. Referral question(s)
 - e. List collateral contacts and cite the form of contact, such as phone, record review, etc.
- B. Schedule of Appointments
 - a. Individual(s) seen
 - b. Date(s) of service
 - c. Amount of time devoted to evaluation of each individual and the methods of evaluations utilized.
- C. Assessment
 - a. Document the stated objectives of each party related to custody and visitation
 - b. What does each party view as the primary issues such as conflicts, and allegations
 - c. Parent statements, from their perspective, of their own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations as a parent and their view of the child(ren) in terms of needs and impairments – and their view on the same issue as it pertains to the other parent.
 - d. Information gathered from prior findings (records, summary analyses, etc.) which establish a foundation of relevant background and context for the current evaluation.
- D. Result of Evaluation
 - a. Statement of evaluation findings which includes:
 - i. Mental status exam
 - ii. Interview information as it pertains to child custody
 - iii. Observations
 - iv. Relevant psychological testing information
- E. Interpretation of Findings
 - a. Parental abilities, strengths/concerns/impairments that either enhance or detract from competent parenting
 - b. Mental health of child(ren) clarifying developmental needs, special considerations, vulnerabilities, etc.
 - c. Quality of parent-child interaction, parent-parent interaction with issues of consistency and congruence.
 - d. Issues of credibility related to these findings
- F. Discussion of Findings