



LIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES, LLC

GAL CUSTODY QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

My name is: _____ Date: ____/____/____.

Parent Printed Name

If there's a question that doesn't apply to your child/children, just mark it "N/A" (not applicable).

Residence

Do you believe that all the child/children should live in the same residence?

Yes _____. No _____.

Why or why not?

Do you believe the child/children should live with you or with your co-parent?

With you _____. With the other parent _____.

Why?

If the child/children were to live with you, what efforts would you make to ensure that they spend time with and have a meaningful relationship with the other parent?

Please answer this question even if you have said the child/children should live with you. If the child/children were to live with the other parent, what efforts would you expect the other parent to make to ensure that they spend time with and have a meaningful relationship with you?

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Assuming the child/children were to live with you, when should they spend time with the other parent? Weekends? Weeknights? Summer? Should you design a separate schedule for use when the two of you are separated by distance?

Assuming the child/children were to live with the other parent, when should they spend time with you? Weekends? Weeknights? Summer? Should you design a separate schedule for use when the two of you are separated by distance?

Should the child/children spend time on the telephone with the other parent other than during scheduled visitation? How often? For how long? Should there be a set time or just whenever? Should the residential parent agree not to interfere with or listen in on these calls? Who should pay for them?

If babysitting is needed, should the other parent be the first-choice babysitter? If so, how (and how far in advance) should you contact each other about this?

Do you intend to continue living in the same area until all the child/children are adults?

Yes _____. No _____.

Why or why not?

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If you moved away, where do you think you might move?

How closely should the two of you live to each other while the child/children are growing up?

What restrictions or agreements should the two of you make, if any, about what happens if one of you moves away from the area?

If you're separated by distance, who should pay for the child/children to travel? Should there be an adjustment in child support?

What special arrangements, if any, need to be made on the following holidays? (If a holiday is unimportant, just leave it blank.)

Martin Luther King

Easter

Valentine's Day

Mother's Day

Washington's Birthday

Memorial Day

Spring Break

Father's Day

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Independence Day

New Year's Eve

Labor Day

New Year's Day

Rosh Hashanah

Winter break

Yom Kippur

Child's Birthday

Halloween

Your birthday

Thanksgiving

Other relative's birthday

Hanukkah

Other

Christmas Eve

Other

Christmas Day

Other

Should your child/children continue in the same school system they now attend?

Yes _____. No _____.

Why or why not?

Should both of you have access to the following?

Grade reports? Yes _____. No _____.

Notice of all school events? Yes _____. No _____.

Notice of all extracurricular events? Yes _____. No _____.

Visits with teachers? Yes _____. No _____.

Ability to visit child/children in class? Yes _____. No _____.

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Ability to eat lunch with child/children? Yes _____. No _____.

Should the two of you consult with each other about major educational decisions (for example, whether to change schools, or whether to take advanced level courses)? If you should, how should you resolve differences between the two of you?

If you should not consult with each other about major educational decisions, should the one of you who is not consulted receive any notice of such decisions?

What arrangements need to be made now about higher education? Should both parents contribute to the cost of college? If so, how should you share these costs?

What restrictions, if any, should be placed on your duty to contribute to college (e.g., public college only? grade point average?)

What advance savings arrangements, if any, should you agree to make to pay for college?

Athletics

Are there particular sports that are particularly important to one of more of your child/children? For each one, is either of you more oriented toward that sport than the other?

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Are there particular sports in which one of your more child/children should not participate, or should not participate until a given age? If so, what are they, and why?

Spiritual Life

What sort of spiritual involvement should the child/children receive? What level of attendance in church or synagogue is important to you?

If the two parents disagree about spiritual matters, how should you resolve the disagreement?

Should the child/children attend the same church or synagogue regardless of which parent is with them during the weekend? If not, should there be any requirement or restriction about church or synagogue attendance? If so, are there any arrangements you need to make to avoid conflict?

Are there any church or synagogue activities the child/children should attend during the week?

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Medical and Dental Care

What arrangements if any should be made for health insurance for the child/children? Which doctors or clinics should they use?

How should you pay for health expenses not covered by insurance, such as co-pays, deductibles, prescription drugs, eyeglasses and contacts, dental expenses, braces, psychological counseling, treatment for pre-existing conditions?

Should both of you have access to the following?

Access to medical reports? Yes _____. No _____.

Advance notice of medical exams? Yes _____. No _____.

Notification of emergency care? Yes _____. No _____.

Right to independent visits with doctors? Yes _____. No _____.

Financial

How should the two of you share the costs of supporting your child? Should you simply apply the child support guidelines in effect in your state? If so, what arrangements will the two of you make to compare information about your income and relevant expenses so both of you can recompute child support periodically?

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If you should not simply apply the guidelines, what arrangements should you make about the costs of supporting your child?

Which of you should claim which child/children as a tax deduction?

What general savings (that is, in addition to or separate from college costs) should be set aside for your child/children? Who should contribute to them, and who should manage them?

Miscellaneous

Are there particular relatives or friends with whom it's important for your child/children to spend time and maintain a relationship? With whom it's important they not spend time or have a relationship?

Are there any stepchild/children or stepparents with whom it's important for your child/children to spend time and maintain a relationship? With whom it's important they not spend time or have a relationship?

Understanding that all couples who have divorced experience conflict and difficulty communicating, are there particular issues between you and your spouse that need to be considered as you develop your parenting plan?

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How would you prefer that the other parent contact you? In person? By telephone at home? By telephone at work? By mail? By e-mail? By fax? Through a third party?

What restrictions should both of you follow in communicating about the relationship or the other parent to the child/children? _____ Should you agree not to criticize each other? _____ Should you agree not to use the child/children to deliver messages or information to or from the other spouse? _____ Should you agree not to discuss divorce issues or money issues in front of the child/children? _____ What other understandings or arrangements should you have with each other?

What other issues or concerns should you and the other parent discuss with the Guardian ad litem at this stage

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Watson, M.Ed., LCPC, LMFT, NCC

Guardian ad litem

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

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