

Custody Case Worksheet



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You may contact the Rural Law Center of New York, Inc. as follows:

BY MAIL: 22 U.S. Oval, Suite 101, Plattsburgh, New York 12903

PHONE: (518) 561-5460

FAX: (518) 561-5468

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.rurallawcenter.org

CUSTODY CASE WORKSHEET

CUSTODY TOPICS AND QUESTION GUIDE ACTIVITIES WITH CHILD (REN)

This worksheet asks that you provide information and comments regarding many aspects of your children's care. It also gives you a rough idea of things that might come up in court or in negotiations.

You should begin now to organize your comments in the format set out in the Worksheet. You will find that in large part these comments will overlap those made from day to day in your journal. This is fine, but you should also feel free to note any past events or actions which would bear upon the topics listed on the Worksheet. Also, please consider when preparing your comments whether any photographs or similar means might be available to illustrate your points.

In short paragraphs that correspond with letters A through T and numbers 1 through 148, comment on the following areas. This guideline will be roughly equivalent to the areas that are considered in any custody case. **It cannot be emphasized strongly enough as you read the following categories to fully list examples of past and present, with dates.**

A. Time Past, Present and Future with Children

1. hours of work of parent (s)
2. days of work
3. travel and absence from home
4. when children leave home from school and return home
5. when children go to bed
6. time schedule of parent if awarded custody

B. Food and Feeding

7. meals with them
8. prepare meals
9. shopping
10. see that they eat properly balanced diet
11. see that they eat sufficiently, not too much or too little
12. table manners
13. meals outside the home

C. Cleanliness, Attention to Body and Daily Routines

14. washed hands, face, ears
15. bathing, showering
16. toilet training
17. clean nails
18. brushed and combed hair

19. acne
20. use of cosmetics
21. kept them neat
22. saw that house and their rooms are clean
23. beds made
24. put them to sleep
25. stayed with them
26. there when children would wake up
27. play on beach
28. swimming
29. out of doors
30. playground
31. walk with them
32. athletic games including such games participated in by parent and child

D. Medical

33. visits to pediatrician
34. doctor
35. check-ups
36. special attention
37. follow prescriptions
38. give medicines
39. during illness
40. stayed with children
41. attention to them
42. advised other parent

E. Dental

43. visits to dentist
44. teeth brushing
45. water pick
46. bought toothpaste
47. braces
48. orthodontia

F. Clothing

49. purchase and attention to appearance, sizes, quality, utility, warmth, cost
50. dress them or help them dress
51. undress them or help them undress
52. laundry
53. mending
54. sewing

G. Attention to Mind

55. read to them

- 56. television (choices and limitation)
- 57. movies
- 58. crossword puzzles, monopoly and other games
- 59. theatre
- 60. plays for children
- 61. magic shows

H. Education

- 62. what schools
- 63. how children go or will go to school
- 64. visits to school
- 65. conference with teachers
- 66. see they do homework
- 67. help with homework, not too much, not too little

I. Music

- 68. sing with them
- 69. musical instruments
- 70. listening to records
- 71. choice of records

J. Psychological and Emotional

- 72. relations to father/mother
- 73. children to father/mother
- 74. encourage relationship and activities with other parent
- 75. relationship to mother's parents and family/father's parents and family
- 76. relationship between siblings; encourage no favoritism, takes them out usually together, sometimes singly
- 77. birthdays of child
- 78. birthdays of other children
- 79. parties
- 80. association with other children
- 81. Christmas
- 82. Hanukkah
- 83. Easter
- 84. children – happy with father/mother
- 85. cooperation with therapist, counselor, school or other psychologist
- 86. follow advice of these professionals

K. Sex

- 87. education
- 88. special problems and guidance
- 89. menstruation

L. Play with Children

- 91. playground – swings, see-saws
- 92. games
- 93. home
- 94. outside – play with children and/or transportation to or attendance at sporting events children participate in

M. Discipline of Children

- 95. manners
- 96. speech
- 97. politeness
- 98. how administered

N. Religion of Children

- 99. Sunday School
- 100. religious school
- 101. holy days
- 102. prayers
- 103. symbolism in home
- 104. attendance at services
- 105. respect for other faiths
- 106. religious books
- 107. confirmation – first communion
- 108. bar mitzvah
- 109. bat mitzvah

O. Chronological Description of Activities

- 110. typical day – morning, afternoon, night
- 111. before child attended school
- 112. school days
- 113. typical weekend – Saturday, Sunday
- 114. vacation

P. Health of Each Parent

- 115. physical
- 116. psychological
- 117. drugs
- 118. alcohol

Q. Evaluation of Each Parent

- 119. gentle
- 120. kind
- 121. sweet
- 122. patient

- 123. attentive
- 124. caring
- 125. considerate
- 126. intelligent
- 127. careful
- 128. reliable

R. Demonstration of Affection

- 129. love
- 130. words of love by parent
- 131. children – words of love
- 132. laugh together
- 133. cuddling
- 134. kissing
- 135. hugging
- 136. smooching

S. Negative Actions

- 137. mistreat
- 138. neglect
- 139. beat
- 140. abuse
- 141. yell and scream
- 142. inattentive
- 143. rude
- 144. improper

T. Last Questions

- 145. Can you be the most effective parent?
- 146. If custody is granted to you, will you endeavor to respect and strengthen their relationship with the other parent?
- 147. Do you deeply realize that these children need the love and attention of both parents?
- 148. Do you ask this court to award custody of _____ to you?