



**CLIENT
QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR REPRESENTATION
IN CUSTODY DISPUTES**

PLEASE FILL OUT USING ALL AVAILABLE, ACCURATE INFORMATION

Failure to provide current and accurate information on these forms makes it very difficult to provide service to you as a client of our firm. The family courts of the State of Texas require absolutely accurate reflections of the situations of the parties to the custody matter and the children, and when appropriate, your failure to provide this information or your providing inaccurate or false information, may result in your own personal liability therefor, possible criminal charges against you and your fee forfeited.

UPON COMPLETION PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE OF THE EARP LAW FIRM,
P.C.. IF IN ANSWERING ANY PART OF THIS QUESTIONNAIRE YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US.

Client Name: _____

Please fill out this questionnaire and return it as soon as possible. It is important that you answer each question fully.

It is imperative that you be candid!

You should answer all questions relevant to your case. **If a question does not apply to your particular situation, please indicate by marking the question "N/A."** If the answer to any question requires more space than has been provided on the form, please complete your answer on a separate sheet: Refer to the question number to which your answer applies, and attach your answer to this questionnaire.

Your responses to these questions will help to organize your case and will save you money on attorney's fees in trying to gather and assemble information after the case is in progress.

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, AS PROVIDED IN THE TEXAS RULES OF EVIDENCE. THE CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT CONSTITUTE ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT. THE CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND ARE NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO THIRD PERSONS OTHER THAN THOSE TO WHOM DISCLOSURE IS MADE IN FURTHERANCE OF THE RENDITION OF PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES.

Pending Proceedings, Other Attorneys, and What Brought You to This Office:

1. Are there any court proceedings pending on this matter? _____
2. If so, give name of court, name of judge, date of filing, court docket number, and status of case:

3. Have you consulted or retained any other attorneys on this matter before coming to this office?

4. If so, state who and when: _____
5. Did the opposing party have any other attorney? _____
6. If so, who? _____
7. Who referred you to this office? _____

Children:

8. If you want primary custody of the children, please state in fifty words or less why you think you should have primary custody.

9. With whom do the children currently live? _____

10. Period of time in which this living arrangement has been in effect:

11. Names and ages of children involved in this custody dispute:

Child's name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

Child's name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

Child's name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

12. Names and ages of your other children who are not involved in this custody dispute:

Child's name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

Child's name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

Child's name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

13. Names and addresses of schools children involved in this custody dispute attend, dates attended, and name of teacher or principal there who is familiar with child:

Child's name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Dates attended: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher and/or principal: _____

Child's name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Dates attended: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher and/or principal: _____

Child's name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Dates attended: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher and/or principal: _____

Care of Children:

To the extent that both you and the opposing party have shared the responsibilities listed below, describe the degree to which the responsibilities have been shared:

14. Who helps the children get dressed in the morning? _____

15. Who bathes the children and grooms them? _____

16. Are any of the children nursing? _____

17. Who takes care of the children during the day? _____

18. Who arranges for getting children together with playmates? _____

19. Who puts the children to bed at night? _____
20. Who prepares meals? _____
21. Who arranges for medical and dental care and takes the children to the doctor?

22. Who takes the children to school? _____
23. Who picks the children up from school? _____
24. Who shops for the children's clothes? _____
25. Who transports the children to extracurricular activities?

26. Do you or the opposing party participate in recreational or educational activities with the children?

27. Describe the nature of the activities and how often you and the opposing party participate in them:

28. Do the children receive religious training? _____
29. If so, from whom? _____
30. Who arranges the children's birthday parties? _____
31. Who helps the children with their homework? _____
32. Who attends parent-teacher conferences? _____

33. Are the children more likely to turn to you or to the opposing party when they have problems?

34. Do you feel the children are closer to you or to the opposing party? Why?

35. Are the children in day care or with a sitter? _____

36. If so, how many hours per week? _____

37. Give name, address, and telephone number of the day-care service or sitter:

38. Who arranges for the day care or sitter? _____

39. Who cares for the children when they are ill? _____

40. Who disciplines the children? _____

41. By what method? _____

42. Has the division of responsibility for child care changed over the years?

43. If so, describe: _____

Time Available to Spend with the Children and Plans for Their Future Care:

44. What are your working hours? _____

45. What time do you leave home? _____

46. When do you return? _____
47. Do you have flexible working hours? _____
48. Does your work require travel? _____
49. If so, describe the frequency, time involved, and distances:

50. Is your work schedule likely to change in the future? _____
51. What are your plans for child care? _____

52. Describe your housing arrangements, including number of bedrooms:

53. What are the opposing party's working hours?

54. What time does the opposing party leave home? _____
55. When does the opposing party return? _____
56. Are the opposing party's working hours flexible?

57. Does the opposing party's work require travel? _____
58. If so, describe the frequency, time involved, and distances:

59. Is the opposing party's work schedule likely to change in the future?

60. What are the opposing party's plans for child care?

61. Describe the opposing party's housing arrangements, including number of bedrooms:

Special Needs of the Children:

62. Do the children have any special or unusual educational or health-care needs?

63. If so, describe them:

64. Who has worked to meet those needs?

65. Are you or the opposing party better able to meet those needs?

66. Has the children's academic performance changed in the last few years or months?

67. If so, what is the reason for the change?

Interference with Other Parent's Relationship with Children:

68. Will it be alleged that you or the opposing party has interfered with the children's relationship with the other party or spoken badly about the other party to the children?

69. If so, explain: _____

70. Will it be alleged that you or the opposing party has blocked the other party's visitation with the children?

71. If so, explain, giving dates and frequency with which visitation was allegedly blocked:

72. Will it be alleged that you or the opposing party has discouraged the children from having a good relationship with a stepparent or a "significant person" in the other party's life?

73. If so, explain: _____

Cooperation between You and Your Spouse or Ex-Spouse:

74. How well have you and the opposing party been able to cooperate on matters concerning the children and on matters concerning visitation or access to the children?

75. To what extent do you and the opposing party share values regarding how the children should be raised, what type of education they should have, and what type of religious training they should have?

Frequency of Moves and Plans to Move:

76. Have you or the opposing party moved in the last ten years?

77. If so, when and where? (Include moves in the same city.)

78. Do you or the opposing party plan to move in the near future?

79. If so, when and where? _____

80. Does the party who is not moving oppose the move? _____

81. Why? _____

Children's Preferences:

82. Have the children told you with whom they want to live? _____

83. If so, please answer these questions:

What is the basis for the preference? _____

How strong is the preference? _____

How long has the preference been held? _____

Has the preference changed? _____

How would you feel about the children's talking to the judge about their preferences?

Children's Relationship with Other Family Members:

84. How do the children get along with each other? _____

85. How do the children get along with stepparents? _____

86. How do the children get along with stepbrothers and stepsisters?

87. Do the children have a particularly close relationship with either or both sets of grandparents?

88. Do the children have a strong relationship with anyone else that you believe is important?

Goals:

89. What are your future goals with the children and the reasons for your goals?

90. To what extent do you believe that you and the opposing party should have joint custody (sometimes referred to as "shared parental responsibility"), under which you both would share equally in making major decisions affecting the children and/or being with the children for substantial periods of time?

91. What are the opposing party's goals with the children and the reasons for these goals?

92. Have you and the opposing party attempted to work out a settlement of the case between yourselves?

93. What progress have you made? _____

94. What are your positions? _____

Witnesses:

95. Who do you think would make good witnesses for you, and what do you think the testimony would be? (Possible witnesses include neighbors, the children's teachers, friends, doctors, baby-sitters, day-care workers, clergy, and family members.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

96. Who do you think will be witnesses for the opposing party, and what do you think will be the testimony of those persons?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

"Skeletons in the Closet" and Sensitive Topics:

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU BE OPEN AND HONEST IN ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. ANY DISCUSSION RELATING TO ANY OF THESE TOPICS BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR ATTORNEY WILL BE PROTECTED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE. IF YOU FAIL TO BE HONEST IN ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS, IT COULD BE ABSOLUTELY DISASTROUS TO YOUR CASE.

If an answer to one of the questions below is "yes," please describe the situation in detail.

Will anyone **allege** that you or the opposing party has done any of the following:

	YOU	OPPOSING PARTY
97. Committed a crime?	_____	_____
98. Been arrested?	_____	_____
99. Been in jail or prison?	_____	_____
100. Used illegal drugs?	_____	_____
101. Been hospitalized for using illegal drugs?	_____	_____
102. Abused prescription drugs?	_____	_____
103. Been hospitalized for abusing prescription drugs?	_____	_____

- | | | | |
|------|---|-------|-------------------|
| 104. | Abused alcohol? | _____ | _____ |
| 105. | Been hospitalized for abusing alcohol? | _____ | _____ |
| 106. | Been arrested for or convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol (drunk driving)? | _____ | _____ |
| 107. | Engaged in gambling activities (legal or illegal)? | _____ | _____ |
| 108. | Engaged in other illegal activities? | _____ | _____ |
| 109. | Attempted suicide? | _____ | _____ |
| 110. | Been hospitalized for an emotional or psychiatric disorder? | _____ | _____ |
| 111. | Suffered from or received treatment for an emotional or psychiatric condition? | _____ | _____ |
| 112. | Abused own spouse? | _____ | _____ |
| 113. | Been accused of child abuse? | _____ | _____ |
| 114. | Had a sexual relationship during the marriage with someone other than own spouse? | _____ | _____ |
| | | YOU | OPPOSING
PARTY |
| 115. | Had a sexual relationship (during or not during the marriage) with someone other than own spouse of which the children were aware? | _____ | _____ |
| | If so, describe the children's reaction to the relationship and the children's feelings about the person(s) involved in the relationship. | | |
| | _____ | | |
| | _____ | | |
| 116. | Had a homosexual/bisexual relationship? | _____ | _____ |
| 117. | Engaged in unusual sexual practices? | _____ | _____ |
| 118. | Had a pregnancy outside of marriage? | _____ | _____ |
| 119. | Had a sexually transmitted disease? | _____ | _____ |

- 120. Been photographed or video taped in a compromising manner (i.e. sexy photos)? _____
- 121. Been photographed or videotaped engaging in any unlawful activities? _____
- 122. Been photographed or videotaped engaging in any embarrassing or morally questionable activities? _____

For each "YES" answer on questions 24, 25, and/or 26, describe the content of the photos or videos. Include the name of the person in possession of same.

- 123. Drunk to excess? _____

If so, what and how often? _____

YOU	YOUR SPOUSE OR EX-SPOUSE
-----	--------------------------------

- 124. Other?
(Include *anything* that may have come to mind while answering these questions, but that was not covered by a question, whether or not you think it is important.) _____

- 125. If you or the opposing party has a relationship with a person whom the children see frequently and **that person** would answer "yes" to one or more of the preceding "skeleton-in-the-closet" questions, describe the situation:

126. Do you or the opposing party suffer from any mental or physical disability that would interfere with being able to care for the children?

127. Have you or the opposing party made any photographs or audio or visual recordings of the other party?

If so, describe the content and who has custody of those photographs/recordings:__

VERIFICATION

"I have read the instructions for how to fill out the Client Questionnaire for Representation in Divorce and I state that all the information I have is fully disclosed by me on the attached Client Questionnaire for Representation in Divorce."

Sign: _____

Printed Name of Client: _____

Date: _____
