

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF THE FIFTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ELK AND CAMERON COUNTIES

CUSTODY QUESTIONNAIRE

INSTRUCTIONS

You have been Court ordered to complete the attached Questionnaire. Your failure to complete this Questionnaire in a timely manner may impact adversely on your case.

Your answers to the attached Questionnaire will assist the Court in making a decision in your case. It is critical that you answer the questions honestly and completely.

Each attorney and self-represented litigant in the case will be given a copy of this Questionnaire to review. Be careful to answer each question completely and accurately. Your responses on this Questionnaire is your direct testimony at the time of trial and are **under oath**; you may be cross-examined about your answers at trial.

If additional space is needed to answer any question, attach additional pages identifying which question number(s) your answers refer to.

Answers shall be typed. Answer every question. If a question does not apply to you print NA on the line provided for your answer.

NOTICE

The original Questionnaire **SHALL NOT** be filed in the Prothonotary's Office. The original questionnaire shall be submitted to Court Administration no less than seven (7) days before your custody pretrial conference **or as otherwise ordered by the Court**. This can be mailed to PO Box 416, Ridgway, Pennsylvania, or e-mailed as a PDF document to **custody@countvofelkpa.com**.

You will need 3 copies of your completed Questionnaire. The original shall be given to Court Administration. A copy shall be given to the other parent or his/her attorney if he/she is represented – you must mail that copy to the other parent or if represented, his/her attorney no less than seven (7) days before your custody trial or as otherwise ordered by the Court. The remaining copy is for you.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

1. What is your name: _____
- 1a. What is your date of birth: _____
2. What is your current residence address (Where do you live?): _____

2a. How long have you resided (lived) at this location: _____

2b. What is your current telephone number: Day _____ Evening _____

3. Is this the place where the child would live/visit with you: _____

3a. State the street addresses where you have lived for the last five years and the dates you lived at each address:

Address	From/ to Dates
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. If the answer to Question 3 is no, state the residence address where the child would live/visit with you and state why it is different than where you currently reside: _____

PRIOR CUSTODY LITIGATION

5. Have you been involved in a previous dispute that resulted in a court hearing regarding the children who are the subjects of litigation: ___ YES ___ NO
6. If the answer is yes, state the name and location of the Court which heard the case: _____
7. If the answer is yes, attach a copy of the Court's Order(s) in that case.

PRIOR SOCIAL SERVICES INVESTIGATIONS

8. Has the Children & Youth Services or similar agency of authority ever contacted you, your current spouse/girlfriend/boyfriend/paramour, the other parent, or any party to this litigation regarding an investigation for allegations of abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse of a child? ___ YES ___ NO
9. If the answer is yes, state the name of the Department, the City/County, and the State where the investigation took place: _____
- 9a. 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: _____

9b. Have any of your children ever been in foster care? ___ Yes ___ No

9c. 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 CYS care	CYS Agency
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

10. State the names of the children involved in the present Court action:

Name	Relationship to you	Gender	Birth Date	Grade in School
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11. State the names of all persons who reside in your home, both children and adults:

Name	Relationship to you	Gender	Birth Date	Grade in School
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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

12. Are you employed? _____ YES _____ NO

12a. What is the name, address, and telephone number of your current employer: _____

12b. How long have you been employed with your current employer: _____

12c. What are your work hours: _____

12d. What time do you leave home for work and what time do you return home each day: _____

12e. Do you work weekends: _____ YES _____ NO

12f. Do you work nights: _____ YES _____ NO

12g. Do you travel on your job or are you on call in the evenings/weekends: _____ YES _____ NO

12h. If the answer is yes to 12d, 12e and/or 12f, please explain: _____

12i. State the names, addresses and telephone numbers of your employers for the past three years:

Name of employer	Address	Telephone	Dates of work there
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12j. What is your current annual income (from all sources): _____

13. Describe your educational background: _____

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

15. Have you served in the U.S. Military: _____

15a. If so, state the branch of Military and describe the type of work you did for the military: _____

CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC RECORD

16. Have you ever been convicted of a crime including a traffic offense: _____ YES _____ NO

16a. If yes, state the crime: _____

16b. If yes, state the name of the Court, City/County, and State where you were convicted:

Note: If you have not already done so, you must complete and file with the Prothonotary a Criminal Record Abuse History Verification Form.

PHYSICAL HEALTH HISTORY

17. Describe your current physical health condition: _____

18. Describe the current health condition of the children who are the subjects of this litigation: _____

19. Do the children have any special health problems such as allergies, hyperactivity, etc. which one parent has more background or better skills to deal with: ___YES ___NO
If yes, explain: _____

19a. Name the children's doctors and dentist: _____

19b. Have you ever met with the children's doctors or taken the children to their doctors for regular checkups or during illnesses: ___YES ___NO

19c. Do you believe the children have received adequate health care and routine wellness visits: _____

19d. If not, describe what you believe the deficiencies to be: _____

19e. Who has been the person primarily responsible for taking the children to the doctor and dentist in the past: _____

20. Do you claim that the physical health of a parent or child is an issue in this litigation: _____

20a. If yes, explain why: _____

21. Do you have health insurance that covers the children: ___YES ___NO

21a. State the name of the health insurance company, the address and policy number: _____

MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY

22. Describe your current mental health condition including drug and alcohol abuse: _____

22a. Have you ever been treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health, drug, or alcohol problem: ___YES ___NO

22b. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment: _____

22c. State the date of your treatment: _____

22d. State the diagnosis you were given: _____

22e. State the medication you were prescribed: _____

22f. Are you currently being treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health, drug, or alcohol problem? YES NO If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment:

22h. Are you currently taking any type of medication as result of such treatment: YES NO

22i. If yes, what is the medication: _____

22j. Have you ever been hospitalized for a mental health problem, including a drug or alcohol problem: YES NO

22k. Has anyone ever suggested or referred you for evaluation on treatment for alcohol or drug problems: YES NO

a. If so, did you have such evaluation or treatment: YES NO

b. Did you complete such an evaluation or treatment: YES NO

c. Did you decline such an evaluation or treatment: YES NO

23. Describe the mental health condition of each child who is the subject of this litigation: _____

23a. Have any of the children who are subject of this litigation ever been treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health, drug, or alcohol problem: YES NO

23b. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment and the name of the child receiving treatment: _____

23c. State the date of the child's treatment: _____

23d. State the diagnosis the child was given: _____

23e. State the medication prescribed for the child: _____

23f. Are any of the children who are subject to this litigation currently being treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health problem or a drug or alcohol problem: YES NO

23g. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment: _____

23h. 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: YES NO

23i. If yes, what is the medication: _____

23j. 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: YES NO

23k. If yes, state where the hospitalization occurred and when it occurred: _____

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

24a. Has the other party to this litigation ever been treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health practitioner for a mental health, drug, or alcohol problem: YES NO

24b. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment: _____

24c. State the date of the treatment rendered to the other party in this litigation: _____

24d. State the diagnosis given to the other party in this litigation: _____

24e. State the medication prescribed to the other party in this litigation if you know: _____

24f. Is the other party in this litigation currently being treated by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or other mental health practitioner for a mental health, drug, or alcohol problem: YES NO

24g. If yes, state the name and address of the person providing treatment: _____

24h. Has the other party to this litigation ever been hospitalized for a mental health problem, including drug or alcohol problem. YES NO

24i. If yes, state where the hospitalization occurred and when it occurred: _____

25. Describe your usage of alcohol, prescription, and nonprescription drugs: _____

26. State the usage of alcohol, prescription, and none prescription drugs by the other party to this litigation: _____

MARITAL HISTORY

27. What is the name of your current spouse, if married and, if not married, the name of your current girlfriend/boyfriend/paramour: _____

28. Do you and your current spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend/paramour live together: YES NO

29. Have you ever been married before: YES NO If yes, how many times and to whom: _____

30. Do you have children from prior marriages or relationships: YES NO

30a. Describe the relationship between these other children and the children whose custody/visitation is before the Court: _____

31. If these children have not already been named in response to Question 11 state their names and ages here: _____

32. Who has custody: _____

32a. If you don't have custody, explain what partial custody or visitation you have with the other child(ren)?: _____

32b. Is there a custody Order or written agreement? YES NO

33. If there has been custody litigation regarding these children, state the name and address of the Court in which the litigation took place: _____

NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN

35. Do any of the children who are the subject of this litigation have any special needs (reflecting either a physical or emotional need): YES NO

35a. If yes, state which child or children and state the exact nature of the special need: _____

35b. State which party to the litigation can better provide for the special needs of the child(ren) and why: _____

35c. 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 other 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: _____

35d. Do any of the child(ren) 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: _____

35e. What is your child(ren)'s strongest subject in school and why: _____

35f. What is your child(ren)'s weakest subject in school and why: _____

35g. Who are your child(ren)'s school teachers: _____

35h. Have you met with these teachers? ____ Yes ____ No

35i. Have any of your child(ren) been referred to the guidance office and for what reason: _____

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EACH PARENT AND CHILD

36. Describe the relationship between you and each of your children who are the subject of this litigation: _____

36a. Describe the relationship between the other parent or party to this litigation and each of the children: _____

36b. Describe what, if any, positive involvement you have had in each child's life: _____

36c. Describe what, if any, positive involvement the other parent has had in each child's life: _____

36d. 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 of your position: _____

36e. 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 CHILD'S UPBRINGING

37. 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: _____

38. 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

39. What type of relationship do you believe the children should be allowed to have with the other parent or party to this litigation if you are granted custody: _____

40. 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: _____

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

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

43. If you are not granted custody, what type of visitation are you requesting? Describe: _____

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

45. Has the other parent or party to this litigation demonstrated a willingness and ability to maintain a close continuing relationship with the other children? ___yes ___no

Explain: _____

46. Have you demonstrated a willingness and ability to maintain a close and continuing relationship with the children? ___yes ___no

Explain: _____

46a. 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

47. Are your children aware of the current Court proceeding? ___Yes ___No

47a. How did they become aware of the current Court proceeding: _____

47b. State whether a child of yours has discussed the issue of custody with you or with anyone else to your knowledge: _____

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

49. 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.

50. Do you have evidence that the other parent or party to this litigation has committed such abuse on a family or household member: ___ YES ___ NO

If so, explain in detail and list the names of any witnesses: _____

51. Did the case result in Court action: ___ YES ___ NO

51a. If yes, state the name and address of the Court: _____

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

53. Have you ever committed family or household member abuse: ___ YES ___ NO

53a. If yes, explain: _____

PARENTING AND RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

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

Strengths: _____

Weaknesses: _____

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

Strengths: _____

Weaknesses: _____

56. What are some of your successes and failures in life and how did you handle them: _____

57. How have you taught your children to deal with success and failure: _____

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

59. If you are currently married or living with someone, how is this relationship different from past relationships: _____

60. Describe how the children interact with the other people who live in your household: _____

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

62. 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: _____

63. 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: _____

64. 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 the facts and a time reference as to when you allege the abuse or neglect took place: _____

65. 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: _____

66. What do your children add to your life: _____

67. What do you add to the lives of your children: _____

68. What educational goals do you have for the children who are the subject of this litigation: _____

69. What moral and spiritual expectations do you have for the children: _____

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

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

72. Describe the relationship each child has previously had with these family members: _____

73. Describe your child's personality and maturity (Identify each child by name): _____

74. Have you ever experienced any emotional, behavioral, or school related problems with your child(ren): YES NO
If yes, please describe the nature of the problem and how it was handled: _____

75. What are the rules and responsibilities for the children in your home: _____

76. How do you discipline your children: _____

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

78. 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 and give a time reference.)

79. State what activities the other party and the children have participated in together in the past. (For example: movies; going to the park and museums; sports; music lessons; Bible school and give a time reference.)

80. How did you explain the divorce and/or separation to your children: _____

81. How did you explain the present Court action to your children: _____

82. In your opinion, what role should a stepparent play in your child's life: _____

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

83. 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 the service: _____

84. State the number of hours per week the children will be in child care: _____

85. State the days of the week and the hours of the day the children will be in child care: _____

86. What is the cost of this child care: _____

PRESENT COURT ACTION

87. If you are asking for a change in custody or visitation from that which has previously been Court ordered, state what significant change in circumstances has occurred since the last Court hearing and why you feel a change is in the best interest of the children: _____

87a. 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: _____

88. What steps have you taken to resolve the conflict prior to filing an action with the Court: _____

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

89a. Did your attorney help you complete this questionnaire? ___YES ___NO

HOME ENVIRONMENT

90. Describe the home in which you plan to have the children reside or visit. State how long you have lived at this location and describe the neighborhood: _____

TRIAL INFORMATION

91. Please list the name, address, and summary of the testimony of the two witnesses that you will call at trial: _____
