

BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD *Worksheet*

Use this Worksheet to go through each and every fact, issue, claim/defense, etc., and apply them to the following. Several principles/factors can apply to the same exact facts while there might be factors that don't apply at all. Be as detailed and specific as possible and revise it as much & as often as you need to.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The importance of family integrity and preference for avoiding removal of the child from his/her home (approximately 28 States, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands):

The health, safety, and/or protection of the child (21 States):

QUOTES: GRATITUDE IS THE KEY TO MENTAL HEALTH

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The importance of timely permanency decisions (19 States and the U.S. Virgin Islands):

The assurance that a child removed from his/her home will be given care, treatment, and guidance that will assist the child in developing into a self-sufficient adult (12 States, American Samoa, and Guam):

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FACTORS

The desires of the child; What does the child want? Which parent's home do they prefer? Which parent's neighborhood, community involvement, etc. do they get the most joy out of?

The emotional and physical needs of the child now and in the future; Does the child have any special needs, developmentally, mentally or emotionally? If so, which parent is more attentive to these needs? Which parent takes care most of handling these needs? Which parent's work schedule is more flexible? Which parent has the most support with providing these things?

The emotional and physical danger to the child now and in the future; Does either parent directly or indirectly put the child in danger? Does any parent have the ability or the likelihood of putting the child in danger? Like physical abuse, sexual abuse, danger in the community/neighborhood?

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FACTORS

The parental abilities of the person seeking custody; Which parent has the lifestyle (home, means, etc.) to provide for the child?

The programs available to assist the parties to promote the best interest of the child; Are there any community resources, work-related or other programs that are available to either parent to help provide for the child's specific needs, esp. special needs? If the other parent has equal, which ones are better?

The plans for the child made by the person seeking custody or the agency; Is either parent planning to change anything in their environment, lifestyle, etc. to specifically make the child's life better? If so, what? And when? And how?

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FACTORS

The stability of the home or proposed placement; Where does each parent live? With whom? For how long? Any ties to the community? What are they? Any activities or opportunities for the child?

The acts or omissions of the parent that indicate that the existing parent-child relationship is not a proper one; and Any suspicious things you notice that lead to think that inappropriate bond or relationship exists? Explain? For how long? Anyone else noticed or raised concern?

Any excuse for the parent's acts or omissions. Any logical reasons for a parent that was previously uninvolved, or that made bad decisions, or lived an unstable life? What are they? What is being done to address them?

Tracey Bee

About Tracey

A family law professional with almost 20 years experience in high conflict divorce and custody. A former family law attorney, certified mediator, trained parent coordinator, certified (pending) divorce coach, blogger, public speaker and ;pro se advocate. Currently providing services to self-represented Family Court litigants nationwide.



Family Court Strategist & Coach

Interview/Discussion Topics

- Self-representation advantages
- Using Strategy in Family Court
- Must Know Attorney tactics
- Working with GAL's
- Complex Family Court procedure
- Getting Around Corruption in Family Court
- Understanding the process

10K
Average
Followers

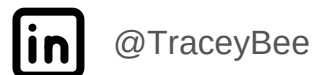
5.5K
Average
Reach

22K
Average
Impressions

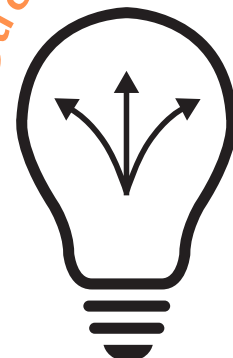
81%
Engagement
Rate



Where to find Tracey:



Strategy is Key!



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\$199

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CASE & EVERY BUDGET

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HOURLY/MONTHLY**

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SERVICES

**DOCUMENT REVIEW/PREP,
RESEARCH, INVESTIGATION
, ATTORNEY SEARCH, ETC.**

CASE
PREPARATION

**STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN;
BEST INTERESTS FACTORS,
RELOCATION, CONTEMPT**

TRIAL
PREP

**PREP & ORGANIZE CASE
FOR TRIAL, EVIDENCE
ORGANIZATION**