Parent Interview Form

Case Reference

Parent’s name

Interviewer Date

Time (start & end)

1. What is your understanding of what we are doing here today? ________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

Review of process, logistics, and other details

___ Purpose of the evaluation
___ Review signed statement of understanding and obtain initials
___ Can the parent explain the use of the information gathered and limits of confidentiality?
___ Fee agreement and payment arrangements
___ Reminder of client’s right to confer with an attorney at any time
___ Do you have any questions prior to starting?

Notes/Observations

____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

2. Tell me about how you and the other parent first met.

____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

3. What first attracted you to him/her.

____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
4. What was the relationship like when you dated?


5. How did you decide to marry/have a committed relationship?


6. How was the marriage/committed relationship in the early stages?


7. Review key dates (see parent history questionnaire item 7) date of marriage, separations, divorce.


8. Over the course of the marriage, how did you handle disagreements?


9. What were the disagreements typically about?


10. How far did the disagreements go (e.g., yelling, pushing, hitting, threats)?


11. Were there financial problems during the marriage? How were these handled?


12. What led up to the divorce/end of relationship?
13. Who initiated the divorce/end of relationship?

14. Did you try marriage/couples counseling? How did it go?

15. Do you anticipate any moves for you or the other parent in the next six months? Year? Five years?

16. What did being a parent mean to you?

17. What did you think was the best thing about parenting at the beginning?

18. What was the hardest thing about it?

19. During infancy, who provided most of the basic child care (e.g., feeding, changing, bathing)?

20. How do you think the other parent would answer this?

21. As the children got older, who handled most of the basic child care (feeding, dressing, supervising)?

22. How do you think the other parent would answer this?
23. How was discipline handled? (How were rules set? What were the rules? Supervision. Consequences.)

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

24. How about now? How is discipline handled when the children are in your home? (How are rules set? What are the rules? Supervision. Consequences.)

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

25. What is your impression of how discipline is handled when the children are in the other parent’s home? (How are rules set? What are the rules? Supervision. Consequences.)

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

26. Do you currently discuss discipline or problem behaviors with the other parent?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

27. Do you belong to any religious groups? Tell me about them and your involvement in them.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

28. Is religion an issue in the custody dispute?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

29. Are there any cultural or ethnic issues that play a part in the custody dispute?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

30. Is personal morality an issue?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
31. What have you told your child(ren) about the separation and/or divorce?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

32. How have they reacted?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

33. How has the divorce affected you?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

   Alcohol consumption?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

35. What have you done to prepare for being a single parent?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

36. Please describe your dating behavior. (During marriage? Since separation. Do the children know?
   What do they think?)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

37. Have you had any serious relationships? If yes, tell me about that...

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

38. How would you describe your childhood?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
39. Tell me about the family you grew up in (extending information in item 40 of parent questionnaire).
   a. Did you get along with your siblings? Were you close? 
   
   
   
   
   b. How often do you see them now? 
   
   
   
   
   c. While growing up, how did you get along with your mom? 
   
   
   
   
   d. While growing up, how did you get along with your dad? 
   
   
   
   
   e. Describe the parenting style of your parents. 
   
   
   
   
   f. Are your parents still alive? Yes _____ No _____
      If yes...
      1) How often do you see them? 
      2) How often do your children see them? 
      3) How would you characterize your relationship with them now? 

40. Does your family have any history of
   a. Substance abuse or alcohol problems? 
   b. Mental illness? 
   c. Serious legal issues? 
   d. DUIs?
41. Let’s review a few things from the parent questionnaire about your history. (from Parent Questionnaire)
   a. Educational history (highest degree earned; major area of study for college)
   b. Employment history (current salary, current position title, current employer, length of current job)
   c. Physical health (any limitations)
   d. Mental health
   e. Substance Abuse (if any indications ask “Do you have a problem with substance use?)
   f. Legal Issues

42. If it was left strictly up to you, how would you assign custody and visitation?

43. Why?

44. What is the downside to this plan, if any?

45. On the questionnaire, we asked about any concerns you have about the other parent. Any other thoughts other than what you said there?
46. After all of this, is there anything else you wanted to tell me or ask me?

Logistics and Scheduling

* Schedule child interviews
* Schedule parent-child observations
* Schedule home visits
* Schedule psychological testing
* Request additional records needed
* Obtain names of collaterals
* Parents child history questionnaires accessed
* Administer child behavior ratings to parents