

Best Interests Factors

When determining custody, the Judge must consider what is in the **BEST INTERESTS** of the child. A child's best interests are determined by consideration of the following:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1 Both parents' wishes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2 The child's wishes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 3 The child's relationships with parents, grandparents, siblings, stepparents and other residents of the households |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4 The child's adjustment to his or her home, school and community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5 The mental and physical health of all individuals involved |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 6 Both parents' past and present compliance with their parental rights and responsibilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 7 Evidence of domestic violence |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 8 The criminal history of both parents and any other resident of the households |

The Court may also consider:

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| <p>Parents' ability to communicate</p> <p>Parents' work schedules</p> <p>Proximity of home, school and daycare</p> <p>Child's previous contact with parents</p> | <p>Drug and alcohol history</p> <p>Number and age of siblings</p> <p>Prior parental interaction</p> <p>Housing arrangements</p> |
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