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:

1	Both parents' wishes
2	The child's wishes
3	The child's relationships with parents, grandparents, siblings, stepparents and other residents of the households
4	The child's adjustment to his or her home, school and community
5	The mental and physical health of all individuals involved
6	Both parents' past and present compliance with their parental rights and responsibilities
6 7	Both parents' past and present compliance with their parental rights

The Court may also consider:

Parents' ability to communicate	Dru
Parents' work schedules	Nur
Proximity of home, school and daycare	Pric
Child's previous contact with parents	Ηοι

Drug and alcohol history Number and age of siblings Prior parental interaction Housing arrangements

This project was supported by Grant No. 2014-FJ-AX-K004 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.