

Ray Hand, Ph.D.
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Child Custody Evaluations

I conduct impartial custody evaluations and prefer to be appointed as the Court's expert when I perform comprehensive custody evaluations following the guidelines of the American Psychological Association. Such evaluations are designed to provide the Court with important information about children and parents so that the Court can make decisions about what is best for children regarding custody and/or visitation. My evaluations include extended interviews of parents and children, along with psychological testing, review of records, observations of each parent interacting with each child and contact with others who may be able to provide relevant information. Evaluations are typically initiated by attorneys who have agreed to employ my services. I must receive the following information in order to prepare a Letter of Agreement that serves as a beginning to each evaluation:

- The names, addresses and dates of birth of each person to be evaluated
- The names, addresses and fax numbers of each attorney involved in the matter
- A timeline for initiation and completion of the evaluation
- Specification of who will be responsible for what portion of my fee

My standard fee for evaluations in custody and visitation matters is \$1750 per person. The entire fee must be paid before the evaluation is initiated. If the parties are to split the fees in some proportional manner, both must submit their fees and commit to the assessment before the evaluation is started. I will not deposit either party's fee until both are received along with a signed Letter of Agreement.

I hope this information will be useful to you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any further questions.

Suggested Court Order Language

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED as follows:

1. An independent forensic child custody evaluation of both parties and **[each/the]** minor child conducted under the guidelines of the American Psychological Association will be performed with **(what proportion of)** costs advanced by **(whom)**. The Court will reserve the issue of which party shall ultimately bear the costs or what portion thereof at the conclusion of the case.

2. The evaluator shall be Ray Hand, Ph.D. , who shall be the Court's witness in this matter and who shall not represent either of the parties.

3. Further, to the extent that they are willing to participate, the current spouses of each party and any other third party shall participate in said evaluation to the extent deemed appropriate by Dr. Hand. The operative and guiding standard for Dr. Hand and all of his work shall be the best interests of the children while extending to the parties equal courtesies.