

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTOCOL FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

The Family Violence Committee prepared these questions as follow-up to the Confidential Interview Questionnaire, the domestic violence screening tool of Marriage and Family Counseling Service. Each numbered question matches a question on the Confidential Interview Questionnaire form. The additional questions are suggested as ways to elicit more information from the clients in order to make your assessment of a) client ability to negotiate in their own best interests and b) safety issues pertinent to the mediation. [MFCS has changed their questionnaire slightly since this list was created.]

1. Do you have any concerns about the child(ren)'s emotional and/or physical safety with the other parent?

Have there ever been direct or indirect threats of physical harm to the child(ren)?

What types of emotional and/or physical abuse has the child(ren) experienced?

Have there ever been bruises or marks left on the child(ren) due to either parent's disciplining the child(ren)?

Do you have concerns about the way the other parent takes care of the child(ren)?

Has the child(ren) expressed fear of either parent?

What does the child(ren) do when either parent is angry?

Are there behavior problems at home or at school? Examples: aggressive behavior, sleepwalking, bedwetting, poor school performance, teeth-grinding, nightmares, headaches and other somatic complaints?

Have any of the children run away from home, been truant or suspended from school, or in trouble with the police?

Have you ever had any concerns about the other parent sleeping with your child(ren) or touching them in a way you think is inappropriate?

2. Has the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services been involved with the family regarding allegations of abuse and/or neglect to the child(ren)?

When? What happened? Was the case indicated/founded?

Was any child ever removed from the home?

Has any child been involved in treatment as a result of an allegation or court order?

Have investigations or formal charges by a law enforcement agency occurred regarding the above? Please explain.

Have you, relatives, neighbors, or others called the police because they thought any of your children were in danger?

3. Has any attorney/Guardian ad Litem/Child's Representative been appointed to represent the children? Please explain.

What is this person's name, address, and phone number?

For what reason have they been appointed?

Have both the children and the parents been interviewed yet?

Has this person made any reports or recommendations to the court?

If so, what do these reports or recommendations state?

Were the reports or recommendations accepted by the court?

4. Have you ever feared that you would not have access to your child(ren)?

Has visitation ever extended beyond scheduled times without the mutual consent of both parents?

Has access with the child(ren) been restricted by: the other parent, the court, other? Please explain.

Has the other parent ever threatened to take the child(ren) where you could not find them? Have they actually taken them? Please explain.

Have the police ever been involved because of difficulties in exchange of a child?

Has the other parent done anything to discourage your visits with the child(ren)?

5. Do you have any questions or concerns about your child(ren) speaking with the mediator? If yes, please explain.

6. Has there ever been medical treatment or hospitalization for psychiatric disorders in the immediate family? Please explain.

Who? When? Where?

Duration of treatment?

Type of treatment?

Diagnosis?

Medications?

Aftercare?

Have you or the other parent ever contemplated or attempted suicide?

7. Do you have any concerns regarding the use of alcohol and/or drugs in the immediate family?

Describe your/the other parent's use of alcohol. What do you/the other parent drink? How much? How often?

When drinking, do you/the other parent get rough or violent?

Describe your/the other parent's use of drugs. What do you/the other parent use? How much? How often?

When using, do you/the other parent get rough or violent?

Have you or the other parent been in treatment for alcohol or substance abuse?

Inpatient? Where? When?

Aftercare?

Have you or the other parent's use of alcohol or drugs resulted in involvement with the law, i.e., DUI?

How has your or the other parent's use of alcohol or drugs affected the child(ren)?

8. Has there ever been any physical confrontation between you and the other parent?

Has the other parent ever hit, punched, slapped, pushed, or kicked you, pulled your hair?

Have you ever hit, punched, slapped, pushed or kicked, or pulled the hair of the other parent?

Have you ever needed medical attention as a result of abuse?

When was the most recent incident? The worst? Please describe.

Has the other parent used or threatened to use a weapon to harm you?

Are there weapons in the home? What kind? How many?

Has the other parent ever damaged or destroyed any of your belongings, property, or hurt any of your pets?

Have any of these events involved the child(ren)? How?

Have you contacted any social service agency because of the abuse to seek help or support?

Do you have a safety plan?

Have you petitioned for an Order of Protection or Restraining Order?

[PROVIDE PARTIES WITH REFERRALS AND SAFETY PLAN AS NEEDED.]

9. Do you have any other concerns about your own emotional and/or physical safety with the other parent? Please explain.

Has the other parent been emotionally or verbally abusive to you? Please explain.

Has the other parent, in order to control, used threats about custody or loss of the child(ren)'s love?

Have you been denied access to finances for food, shelter, medical needs, clothing, etc.?

Is the other parent an extremely jealous person?

Have you ever been prevented from having contact with family or friends?

Did the other parent open your mail, listen to your phone calls, or harass in other ways?

Has there been any physical confrontation with family members, friends, co-workers?

What kind of things makes the other parent angry? What would happen if you had a fight? What would you/he/she do? What other ways would you fight?

What makes you angry? How do you handle arguments?

10. Are there now, or have there previously been Orders of Protection? If yes, expiration date _____.

What happened? Who called the police? Criminal or Civil Order of Protection?

Is/was the child(ren) included in the Order of Protection?

If Order of Protection was granted, do each of you have a copy?

Were either of you arrested? Charges pressed?

Have charges been pressed for a violation of an Order of Protection?

Was there a time when you could have called your partner's violation of the OP to the attention of the authorities and you did not do so? Why didn't you?

11. Are you in any way afraid to meet the other parent and the mediator?

What is it that concerns you most about mediating with the other parent?

Do you believe that the other parent will have more influence on the mediator than you?

In mediation, how would the mediator know that you are angry? That the other parent is angry?

Do you usually give in to settle an argument? Under what circumstances do you cave in?

Would you benefit from talking to a counselor before mediation begins? Would you like a referral?

Would you feel safer sitting in a separate waiting room or leaving at different times?

12. Do you feel you are/were an equal partner in your relationship?

Who made most decisions about how money was to be spent?

Do you have equal access to shared/marital funds and resources?

Who made decisions about your employment?

Who made decisions about whether or not to have child(ren)?

Who made decisions about the child(ren)'s schooling?

Were you able to spend time with your family (of origin) and your friends?

Who made decisions regarding your wardrobe?

Were you "allowed" to work? Were you forced to work?

How have you dealt with and/or resolved problems in the past?

13. Do you feel you are ready to begin working with the other parent to develop a parenting plan? If no, please explain.

Is there anything you would be uncomfortable discussing regarding your relationship, partner, or the child(ren) with the other parent present?

Do you feel your thoughts and/or feelings are heard, acknowledged, or accepted by the other parent?

How might the other parent undermine mediation?

What conditions need to be met to develop and carry out a parenting agreement?

14. Do you have any fear about answering these questions?

If yes, please explain.

Are you concerned about how the other parent is answering these questions?

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Developed by the Family Violence Committee of the
Marriage and Family Counseling Service (312-603-1540)
Circuit Court of Cook County
Office of the Chief Judge
Domestic Relations Division
69 West Washington, Suite 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60602