

Atlanta Area

Family Psychiatry Clinic, P.C.

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Robert M. Slayden, M.D.

Child, Adolescent, and Family Forensic Psychiatry
Tel (770) 393-1880
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Date:

To
Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

This is a letter to friends, relatives and/or community members of the case described below:

Re: _____ v _____
Court: _____
Docket Number: _____

Dear Interested Party:

I am a child, adolescent, adult and family forensic psychiatrist appointed by the Court to perform a child custody evaluation in the child custody dispute you have been asked by one of the litigants to comment about. As part of my evaluation, I need to learn about these parent's marital relationship, parenting style, and participation in their community.

One or both of the parents told me that you have known them for some time, and asked me to obtain information from you about their family. Attached are copies of the following:

- Release of Information forms signed by both parents
- Questions for Family Members, Friends, Relatives, and Community Members
- Consent Form

The questions will give you an idea of the type of information I am seeking. Please sign the enclosed Consent Form and write your responses to the questions posed plus any additional information you may find useful and mail all materials to me at the address above. After I have received them, I may decide to call and arrange a phone interview with you.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Robert M. Slayden, M.D.
Child, Adolescent, and Family Forensic Psychiatrist
Atlanta Area Family Psychiatry Clinic, P.C.
Attachments

CONSENT FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATION

Name of Case: _____

Court: _____

Docket No.: _____

Person providing information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Relationship/association to parties in custody evaluation:

I hereby acknowledge that I have been advised that all information that I provide during the course of this child custody evaluation is not confidential insofar as a report containing this information is expected to be presented to the Court. If so ordered by the Court, this report could be available for inspection by the attorneys representing one or both parties in this matter and in some cases by the parties themselves or any other individual authorized by the Court to obtain such information. I acknowledge that I have the right to decline to answer any questions that the evaluator might ask of me and that if I so decline, any report will indicate the same and any reasons therefore, and that my cooperation in this matter is voluntary.

Date

Signature of Person providing information

Printed name of Person providing information

CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS – QUESTIONS FOR FRIENDS, RELATIVES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

These questions are not exhaustive, but should give you an idea of the type of information that I need to obtain from people who know the child(ren) and other family members who are undergoing a child custody evaluation. I hope that they will be useful to you in thinking about the family being asked about.

Before sending me materials or talking with me, please sign and return the enclosed *Consent Form* which explains that all of the information you give me is not confidential because it will be included in a written report that will be filed with the Court. Please answer each item as thoroughly and concisely as you can. If you do not know about any items please indicate with “no knowledge.”

Knowledge of/contact with child and family

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the child and the family?
2. How would you describe your relationship with each family member?

Description of family members

3. Please describe the mother. What is her personality like? Please give examples.
4. Please describe the father. What is his personality like? Please give examples.
5. Please describe each of the children. What kind of contact have you had with them?
6. Are you aware of any family members having personal problems such as anger issues, substance abuse, lack of personal responsibility, fidelity issues, employment problems or emotional problems? If so please describe which family member and your observations of the problem(s) observed.

Interactions among family members

7. Please describe the relationship between the parents. Have you had the opportunity to observe their typical interactions? Please give specific examples.
8. Are the parents able to communicate and cooperate with each other now? Please give examples.
9. What has the mother said to you about the father?
10. What has the father said to you about the mother?
11. Please describe the mother's relationship with each of the children.
12. Please describe the father's relationship with each of the children.
13. Do you know what each parent has told the children about the separation/divorce?
14. How do the children get along with each other? Please give examples.

Observation of parenting

15. What is the mother's parenting like? Please describe a typical mother/child interaction.
16. What is the father's parenting like? Please describe a typical father/child interaction.
17. How does the mother discipline the children? Please give an example.
18. How does the father discipline the children? Please give an example.
19. During the marriage, which parent took the primary responsibility for the day-to-day care of the children?
20. Do you have any concerns about the parenting in this family?
21. Is there anything else you would like to tell me?

22. Is there anyone else you think I should talk with about this family?

Once again, please be sure to sign and return the Consent Form along with your responses to me. Thank you for your assistance in this difficult process.

**Robert M. Slayden, M.D.
Child, Adolescent, and Family Forensic Psychiatrist**