

Top 10 Questions to Ask a Child Custody Evaluator



Before you hire a family law professional it is essential that you prepare a list of questions to ask. The better prepared you are, the more likely it is that you will make a good decision regarding who to work with.

1. Are you a mental health professional or some other professional?
2. How long have you been completing child custody evaluations? In that time approximately how many evaluations have you completed? What percentage of your practice involves child custody evaluations?
3. Are you a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, the Association for Conflict Resolution, or the Alternative Dispute Resolution section of a Bar Association?
4. Do you abide by the standards of practice set out by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts in *Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation*?
5. Will I be working with you directly? If not, who will handle my case? When can I interview that person?
6. What do you charge/hour? Are there different billing rates for the different types of work that you might do for my case (e.g. going to court)? Will I get a detailed invoice from you on a monthly basis?
7. In total what is your estimate as to what my case will cost? What is your policy on setting up a payment plan? Do I need to pay a retainer? Can you please explain your retainer policy?
8. Is your professional license in good standing?
9. Do you have malpractice insurance?
10. What will you expect of me? How can I help to bring these problems to an end in a way that is good for the whole family?