

State of Louisiana * Parish of Ouachita/Morehouse * 4th Judicial District Court

Filed: _____
VS. NUMBER _____ **(Division** _____ **)**

By Dy
Clerk: _____

ORDER FOR CUSTODY EVALUATION

THIS MATTER came before the Court as a result of the filing of a request by one of the parties which seeks a court-ordered custody evaluation. . Plaintiff, _____, is represented by _____ (or is not represented); Defendant, _____, is represented by _____ (or is not represented). The minor child(ren) and date(s) of birth are as follows:

Name(s) of the Minor Child(ren)	Date of Birth	Current Age

THE COURT, upon considering the pleadings, the law, [and] the presentation made by the parties or their counsel of record [or] the mutual agreements and joint stipulation of the parties:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that _____, a mental health professional, is hereby appointed to conduct a custody evaluation of the parties and the minor child(ren) at issue in this proceeding, pursuant to LSA RS 9:331 and the Local Rules of the Fourth Judicial District Court, and shall, to the extent necessary, consider the factors listed in Article 134 of the Louisiana Civil Code, and said professional shall render a written report within a reasonable time following the conclusion of the evaluation process, and shall provide a copy of same to the Court, all counsel, and any unrepresented party or parties as soon as possible after said report is completed, at the addresses attached hereto;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the custody evaluation being ordered herein is for the purpose of assisting the Court in determining the following issue involving the minor child(ren) in this case: custody/visitation (circle one or both);

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff, _____, and Defendant, _____, and the minor child[ren] at issue in this proceeding, submit to and cooperate in the evaluation, testing, or interview by the mental health professional, and that the parties shall sign any releases requested by the mental health professional to facilitate the mental health professional’s ability to gather information, other than information which is privileged under the attorney-client privilege, which he or she reasonably believes to be necessary for a thorough evaluation;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff, _____, and Defendant, _____, shall contact the mental health professional at the telephone number attached hereto as soon as possible, but in no event later than seven (7) days following the execution and filing of this *Order*, to coordinate the scheduling of evaluation, testing, or interview of the parties and minor child(ren);

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in the event the mental health professional determines that it is advisable to include individuals *other than* the minor child(ren) and the parents in the evaluation process, s/he shall notify the Court and attorneys of said conclusion and shall request authorization to include specific individuals in the evaluation process;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall send a certified copy of this *Order* to the mental health professional, by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address indicated below, simultaneously with the mailing of *Notice* to the counsel of record or unrepresented parties, and that the certified copy of this *Order* which is sent to any unrepresented party shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the mental health professional shall forward a copy of the evaluation report as soon as practicable to the undersigned judge and to Hearing Officer _____.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that costs of evaluation shall be allocated between the parties by the Court at the appropriate time, but that advance costs for the evaluation process shall be paid to the mental health professional as follows:
_____.

THUS ORDERED this _____ day of _____, 20_____, at _____, Louisiana.

DISTRICT JUDGE