

CUSTODY EVALUATOR 7810

Distinguishing Characteristics of Work

This is responsible investigative work evaluating, assessing, and recommending appropriate actions concerning child custody and access issues between disputing parent parties. Duties include submitting to the court specifics, evaluations, assessments, and recommendations concerning the best interests of the children. A Custody Evaluator conducts assessments and evaluates family dynamics including, but not limited to, parenting patterns and skills, substance abuse, mental health, and emotional health. Duties also include conducting civil and criminal history investigations in ascertaining facts for determining the best interests of the children, reporting any perceived abuse/neglect as required by State Statutes and other laws concerning child care and protection, preparing and submitting reports to the court outlining findings, case facts, assessments and recommendations, maintaining complete and accurate documentation concerning all data reviewed, compiled, evaluated and recorded to include statistics and activities conducted, and testifying or giving depositions in court/judicial proceedings as required. A broad variety of contacts are made with individuals and groups in the family law division, criminal justice system (including law enforcement agencies), social services area, legal field, medical field, school system, and general public. Work is performed under the general supervision of a court manager.

Education and Training Guidelines

Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or counseling, and three years of experience in a social work, child development, mental health, counseling, guidance, health, or rehabilitative services, and licensed with the State of Florida as a mental health professional, Section 61.20(2) Florida Statutes.

A master's degree in an area above may substitute for one year of the required experience.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Knowledge of the principles and techniques of social casework and civil investigation. Knowledge of professional ethics relating to social work or counseling. Knowledge of Florida law pertaining to parental responsibility issues, particularly Section 61, F.S. Knowledge of the court system. Knowledge of interviewing techniques. Knowledge of family dynamics and child development. Knowledge of community services and resources for referral and/or recommendation. Ability to work effectively with individuals and families experiencing emotional distress. Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

CUSTODY EVALUATOR

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (con't)

Ability to evaluate, audit, and assess data and information using established criteria. Ability to exercise discretion in determining actual or probable consequences, and in referencing such evaluation to identify and select alternatives. Ability to utilize a wide variety of reference, descriptive, and/or advisory data and information. Ability to apply principles of influence systems, such as motivation, incentive, and leadership. Ability to exercise independent judgment to apply facts and principles for developing approaches and techniques to problem resolution. Ability to exercise judgment, decisiveness, and creativity required in situations involving the evaluation of information against sensory, judgmental, or subjective criteria, as opposed to that which is clearly measurable or verifiable. Ability to exert light physical effort in sedentary to light work which may involve some lifting, carrying, pushing and/or pulling of objects and materials of less than 10 pounds. Ability to inform and guide others by applying principles of professional counseling. Ability to plan, organize and coordinate work assignments. Ability to actively listen to others and negotiate establishes and maintains effective working relationships with others. Ability to perform basic mathematical calculations.

Effective: May, 2007