



New Jersey Judiciary
Custody/Parenting Time Social Investigation Report

Case Name:		Docket Number:
Date Ordered:		Court Date:
Judge:		Report Type:
Plaintiff's Attorney:	Defendant's Attorney:	
Attorney's Phone:	Attorney's Phone:	

Child(ren)

Name	Date of Birth	Age	Residence

Party Profile

Plaintiff	Defendant
Name(s):	Name(s):
Relationship to child:	Relationship to child:
Date of Birth:	Date of Birth:
Birth Place:	Birth Place:
Social Security Number:	Social Security Number:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Number of People in Household:	Number of People in Household:
Description of Residence:	Description of Residence:

Party Profile - continued

Plaintiff	Defendant
Education:	Education:
Employer:	Employer:
Additional Income:	Additional Income:
Number of Children Living at Residence:	Number of Children Living at Residence:
Health Status:	Health Status:
Substance Abuse:	Substance Abuse:
Arrest History:	Arrest History:

Preface: (Brief Overview of Case and Case History)

1. Previous court actions/investigations on involved children and any decisions made.
(If no decision yet, include last recommendation made.)
2. Description of family unit and children.
3. Brief description of reasons for family break-up.
4. Who is requesting custody/visitation, and reasons. (Briefly summarize.)

Plaintiff's & Defendant's Account of Social History:

Provide plaintiff's or defendant's account. Do not use "stated, claimed", etc., as heading already notes such. However, to avoid choppiness or ambiguity of source, an occasional "Mr./Mrs. Jones said" is acceptable.

1. List in sequence: education, employment (enough to demonstrate present status and earning power and potential), financial health, community ties, prior records, statement of other significant relationships (new spouse, etc.), current situation.
2. Home visit – include date, physical description (number of bedrooms, living room, kitchen, etc.), housekeeping standards and atmosphere. Also, names of all people living in home and their relationship to the children.
3. If another county/state agency is investigating one of the parties, note under appropriate heading the names of the investigating authority and whether report is attached or awaited. Also, note here any information from other investigating authority.
4. Use the following codes to indicate if the information contained in these sections have been verified:

V – verified
UV – unable
AV – awaiting verification

Plaintiff's & Defendant's Social History as It Related to the Child(ren) Involved:

This section should not be centered around why either parent feels the other is an unacceptable parent, although this must be included. Positives, such as examples of their own parenting skills (past and present) must be included, or their absence noted, including:

1. Plans for child care if working (baby-sitters, day care, etc.).
2. How they feel they relate to children (use examples).
3. Details of care for any physical, emotional problems, educational needs, recreational needs, ordinary emotional needs.

If there are specific charges involving the welfare of the child, get examples and statements of witnesses, if possible; also, what parent did about any abuse (called police, DCP&P, took to doctor, etc.). Also, check how they would react to joint custody or visitation (overnight or for the day); any problems with present arrangements; are their plans realistic, well thought out; are they willing to ensure that other parent has the chance of a good relationship with the child.

It is here that you would describe in greater detail the reasons for any marital/family breakup, whenever it relates to the welfare of the child or children.

Status of the Children:

If more than one child, list information regarding each child separately, beginning each child's portion with the name underlined, e.g., Mary Jones, age 13 is

Include general statement as to scholastic adjustment, health, any employment, religion, etc.

Describe child's room, clothing, toys, games, emotional status (both the apparent, and any described by medical authority), attitude towards other family members.

Discuss child's perception of each parent, both positive and negative, with specific examples. Don't be vague.

Note child/parent interaction whenever both can be seen together.

List Special Areas of Inquiry for the Judge. If none, write "none".

Additional Contacts:

Interviews with significant others (new spouse, other adults living in the home, baby-sitters, etc.).

Schools (include school reports), counseling treatment if unable to place in social history, i.e., DCP&P, Probation records.

Submitted By:

Signature

Date

Name & Title (typed or printed)