FAMILY COURT SERVICES

Chatsworth Courthouse
9425 Penfield Avenue, Room 3700
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Compton Courthouse
200 W. Compton Blvd. Room 1003
Compton, CA 90220

Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse
275 Magnolia Avenue, Room 3001
Long Beach, CA 90802

Michael D. Antonovich
Antelope Valley Courthouse
42011 4th Street West, Room 3575
Lancaster, CA 93534

Pasadena Courthouse
300 East Walnut Street, Room 100
Pasadena, CA 91101

Pomona Courthouse South
400 Civic Center Plaza, Room 110
Pomona, CA 91766

Stanley Mosk Courthouse
111 N Hill Street, Room 241
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Torrance Courthouse
825 Maple Avenue, Room 450
Torrance, CA 90503

Van Nuys Courthouse East
6230 Sylmar Avenue, Room 213
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Whittier Courthouse
7339 South Painter Avenue, Room 101
Whittier, CA 90602

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For Optional Use

Parenting Plan Assessment

Family Court Services

(213) 830-0835



Your Fee for this Assessment:

$ _____

Date: _____

A **Parenting Plan Assessment (PPA)** is ordered when there are issues where the Court requires additional information and clinical judgment regarding child custody and parenting time issues. The Family Court Services (FCS) Specialist will interview the parents and any child(ren) by videoconference using Microsoft Teams and/or in-person at the FCS office. Some interviews may occur before the scheduled assessment date. The FCS Specialist will contact the parties in advance to schedule interview times and provide videoconference links, as applicable. The parties are required to submit a Parent Questionnaire and Authorization for Release of Information upon the Court ordering a PPA. These forms must be completed through the Court's website at: https://www.lacourt.ca.gov/pages/lp/family-court-services/tp/child-custody-evaluation

For remote interviews conducted through Microsoft Teams, the FCS Specialist may utilize the transcription feature as a note-taking aid to assist in accurately capturing and summarizing the information discussed during the interview.

Family Observation

As part of the PPA process, both parents and child(ren) will be required to participate in a family observation at a FCS office. The observation allows the FCS Specialist to observe interactions between each parent and the children. The FCS Specialist will arrange the date, time and location of the observation.

Recommendation Meeting and Hearing

Prior to the hearing, the FCS Specialist will meet with the parties, either by videoconference, telephone, or in-person to review recommendations regarding custody and parenting time. Counsel for represented parties will be invited to participate. The hearing will be scheduled for 1:30 pm.

Fees

Unless specifically waived by the Court, the fee for this service must be paid to the Family Law Clerk's Office. Payment must be received no later than fourteen (14) calendar days from the date the order for the Parenting Plan Assessment is made. If payment is not received within 14 calendar days, the Parenting Plan Assessment will be canceled. If canceled, reinstatement must be requested directly from the Court. If your case is settled after payment is made, notify the Family Court Services office before the commencement of the Parenting Plan Assessment to receive a full refund. Once the assessment has commenced, a $53 administrative fee will be assessed.

Written Materials for Review

Any written materials you wish the FCS Specialist to review must first be provided to the other parent and their lawyer, if represented. Documents should be submitted to the FCS Specialist by email. Examples of materials that may be submitted include reports from therapists, physicians, law enforcement agencies, and schools. Written materials should be limited in scope and length as the FCS Specialist will review only as time permits and at their discretion.

Collateral Contacts

Please provide the names and telephone numbers of any person who has relevant information regarding the custody issues and who you would like the FCS Specialist to contact. Because the PPA process is limited in time and scope, the FCS Specialist may not be able to interview or contact everyone identified by the parties.

The Interview Process

The FCS Specialist will need time to speak with you, without the child(ren) present, during your interview, whether in-person, by phone or video conference. If you have a young child(ren), please have someone available who can care for them while you are speaking with the FCS Specialist.

Be honest and clear. Do not assume the FCS Specialist already knows something because you told someone else in court. If you have any trouble understanding the questions or feel you are not being understood, please share your concerns.

Please inform the FCS Specialist if there has been any violence between the parents (verbal, physical, emotional, sexual, or technology-enabled).

Pursuant to the Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) §827, California Rules of Court, Rule 5.552, and Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) Local Rules, Rule 7.2, the FCS Specialist may request information regarding you and your children from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as part of the assessment process.

If the FCS Specialist finds a reasonable suspicion of child abuse, elder abuse or learns that an individual may harm themselves or others, the FCS Specialist has a legal and ethical duty to make the appropriate report.

The FCS Specialist will provide written recommendations to the parties, or their counsel, and the Court. The parties may agree to the recommendations. If they do not agree, the FCS Specialist will testify to their findings, conclusions, and recommendations, and will be subject to cross-examination.