

CUSTODY: Best Evidence Checklist

Below is a checklist of items to collect and to provide to your attorney in preparation for your custody trial.

Save Your Legal Fees: It takes less time for the attorney, which means less legal fees for you, if you collect and organize the items and send it together in large portions, rather than one item at a time.

- Any communications with the opposing party (text messages, emails, audio recordings) regarding your children;
- Calendar of regular visitations with notes as to any deviations from the regularly followed schedule (ex. "Dad/Mom was scheduled to pick Child up on Friday, but did not until Saturday." "Mom/Dad asked to see Child on Thursday, but the other parent did not respond or denied the request.")
- Pictures of your family, your child, home, living conditions, etc.
- School report cards, records
- Medical records for your child and parents (if either parent's medical condition is in question)
- List of potential witnesses with contact information and brief statement of what they witnessed
- Statements of specific events that you wish your attorney to know about
- Statement of your legal goals (ex. What custody arrangement would you like to have ordered?)

NOTE: Be sure to provide your attorney with as many of the above items as possible, even if you believe some of the information to be irrelevant to your case. The sooner you can send these items to your attorney for review, the more time your attorney has to prepare!

