

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
07 CVD

JOHN SMITH DOE

Plaintiff

v.

JANE JONES ROE

Defendant

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ORDER FOR COLLABORATIVE
CUSTODY EVALUATION
and CHILD AND FAMILY
EVALUATION

THIS MATTER having come before the Honorable _____.

- A. This Court has personal and subject matter jurisdiction to enter this Order.
- B. The parties are the parents of _____, born _____.
- C. The appointment of an expert custody evaluator is appropriate in this matter and is in the best interests of the minor children.
- D. Allegations of abuse of the minor children have been reported to the _____ County Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services Division (hereinafter “CPS”) in this case and it is therefore in the best interests of the minor children that this Court appoints an expert to evaluate those allegations.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

- 1. Dr. Helen T. Brantley and the UNC Forensic Psychiatry Service of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (hereinafter “UNC”) are hereby appointed by this Court to perform a custody evaluation in this matter. Concomitantly and in collaboration with Nancy Berson, LSCW with the UNC Program on Childhood Trauma and

Maltreatment is appointed by this Court to perform a child and family evaluation. The individuals to be seen in these evaluations are:

Children: (full names and dates of birth)

Parents: (name, address, office and home telephone numbers)

Stepparents: (name, address, office and home telephone numbers)

Grandparents and/or other relatives: (name, address, home and office telephone numbers)

Stepchildren: (name and date of birth)

2. The Plaintiff shall be responsible for _____ (state fraction) of the cost of the custody evaluation and the Defendant shall be responsible for _____ (state fraction) of the cost of the custody evaluation. The parties shall provide payment in full for the cost of the evaluation at the time of their first visit to UNC.

3. CPS of _____ County shall be responsible to UNC for the payment of the fees for that portion of the evaluation that pertains to the allegations of abuse.

4. The parties shall immediately contact UNC and Ms. Berson at the address below to set up the schedule for the evaluation:

Ms. Susan Palmatier, Administrator
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Campus Box 7160
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7160
(919) 966-0012

5. The custody evaluation shall contain such tests, interviews, collateral interviews, observations and other procedures or diagnostic tools as are deemed

appropriate by UNC. Each party shall cooperate in making the children available as requested by UNC and each party shall cooperate and fully participate as requested by UNC in order to timely complete the evaluation.

6. The custody evaluation shall address the following issues and answer the following questions:

- a. The strengths and weaknesses of each party with regard to the legal and physical custody of the children;
- b. The mental and physical conditions of the children and the parties;
- c. The ability of each party to appropriately provide for the children's discipline, education, health care, safety, emotional needs, developmental needs and/or other needs identified by UNC;
- d. The physical custody arrangement that will best serve the children's needs and any provisions for exchanges necessary to protect the children's well-being;
- e. The legal custody arrangement that will best serve the children's needs and interests;
- f. The methods of communication between the parties that will best serve the children's needs and interests and that promise to be the most productive;
- g. Whether and why UNC recommends counseling, therapy, or any other medical or mental health treatment for any of the children or the parties and as much specific information related to such a recommendation as UNC deems appropriate;
- h. Any other matters UNC believes would assist the Court in issuing a custody order that will serve the best interests and welfare of the minor children.

7. The child and family evaluation shall contain such tests, interviews, collateral interviews, observations and other procedures or diagnostic tools as are deemed appropriate by Ms. Berson. Each party shall cooperate in making the children available as requested by Ms. Berson and each party shall cooperate and fully participate as requested by Ms. Berson in order to timely complete her evaluation.

8. The Court hereby orders CPS of _____ County to permit UNC and Ms. Berson to speak with the worker(s) involved in the case, review the CPS records, and to review the reports of and speak with the mental and physical health examiners of the children.

9. UNC and Nancy Berson shall provide a written report that shall contain a description of the procedures employed, a report of the data collected, an explanation of how the resulting recommendations were reach from the data collected, and an explanation of any limitations or reservations in the report.

10. The UNC written report shall be transmitted only to this Court and to the attorneys for each party as follows:

The Honorable _____
District Court for _____ County

Plaintiff's Attorney
Address
Telephone

Defendant's Attorney
Address
Telephone

12. Ms. Berson's report shall be transmitted to this Court, both attorneys as above and to CPS of _____ County.

13. No party, attorney or CPS shall have access to the UNC or Ms. Berson's files in this matter absent a specific Court order allowing access to those files and defining the scope of that access.

This the _____ day of _____, 200__.

The Honorable
District Court Judge Presiding