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Separation & Divorce

Checklist: Who Gets Custody?

When parents cannot agree on a custody arrangement, the court is left with a tough decision. The court will consider many factors when deciding to whom to award custody. In many cases, a consideration of the various factors results in an award of custody to the parent who has been the child's primary caretaker. The following checklist can help you and your attorney establish who has been the primary caretaker in your family.

Who was **usually** or **most often** responsible for performing the following childcare responsibilities?

Task	Mother	Father	Shared
Feeding infant	_____	_____	_____
Feeding younger children	_____	_____	_____
Changing diapers	_____	_____	_____
Holding/cuddling	_____	_____	_____
Preparing meals	_____	_____	_____
Packing lunches	_____	_____	_____
Grocery shopping	_____	_____	_____
Changing diapers	_____	_____	_____
Dressing	_____	_____	_____
Doing laundry	_____	_____	_____
Buying clothing	_____	_____	_____
Maintaining clothing	_____	_____	_____
Bathing	_____	_____	_____
Washing hair	_____	_____	_____
Styling hair	_____	_____	_____
Brushing teeth (help with or enforce)	_____	_____	_____
Putting to bed	_____	_____	_____
Reading stories, books	_____	_____	_____
Helping with homework	_____	_____	_____
Taking to/picking up from school	_____	_____	_____
Taking to/picking up from extracurricular activities	_____	_____	_____
Conferencing with teachers	_____	_____	_____
Attending school open houses	_____	_____	_____
School volunteering	_____	_____	_____
Choosing schools	_____	_____	_____
Helping choose classes	_____	_____	_____
Attending PTA/PTO meetings	_____	_____	_____
Taking to/picking up from religious services	_____	_____	_____
Taking to/picking up from religious classes	_____	_____	_____

Task	Mother	Father	Shared
Taking to/picking up from sports activities	_____	_____	_____
Coaching sports teams	_____	_____	_____
Taking to/picking up from lessons	_____	_____	_____
Taking to/picking up from play dates	_____	_____	_____
Arranging play dates	_____	_____	_____
Hosting play dates	_____	_____	_____
Taking to/picking up from birthday parties	_____	_____	_____
Hosting birthday parties	_____	_____	_____
Shopping for gifts for friends	_____	_____	_____
Shopping for gifts for child	_____	_____	_____
Shopping for school supplies	_____	_____	_____
Shopping for toiletries	_____	_____	_____
Taking to doctor	_____	_____	_____
Taking to dentist	_____	_____	_____
Taking to orthodontist	_____	_____	_____
Making doctor/dentist appointments	_____	_____	_____
Taking care of sick child	_____	_____	_____
Hiring babysitters	_____	_____	_____
Picking up/dropping off babysitter	_____	_____	_____
Arranging daycare	_____	_____	_____
Taking to/picking up from daycare	_____	_____	_____
Planning holidays	_____	_____	_____
Planning vacations	_____	_____	_____
Teaching values	_____	_____	_____
Teaching manners	_____	_____	_____
Monitoring chores	_____	_____	_____
Teaching sex education	_____	_____	_____
Taking to park	_____	_____	_____
Playing with indoors	_____	_____	_____
Playing with outdoors	_____	_____	_____
Cleaning home	_____	_____	_____
Maintaining home	_____	_____	_____
Other (please list):			
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____