

How much does a Custody Evaluation cost?

The average cost of a comprehensive evaluation is about \$14,000.00. This can be less, or more depending on the scope of the evaluation. Any evaluator cannot predict what issues he or she learns about during the course of an evaluation. This estimate includes the cost of psychological testing. This estimate may include local home visits. The estimated cost does not include time for possible depositions or testifying at Court.

The cost of a thorough custody evaluation that meets the requirements of the Court varies according to the complexity of the custody impasse. Some things which influence the scope and cost include the following:

- the ages and numbers of children
- if step parents or significant others are involved
- the complexity of allegations and arguments
- the number of collateral contacts, declarations etc.
- the amount of documents presented to the evaluator
- if home visits are needed, and distance of travel
- the extent of psychological testing, if any
- if one parent wishes to move away from his or her present vicinity and the distance of such a move
- if there are issues of domestic violence or substance abuse.
- if there is a dispute about what school is involved

These factors and others which cannot be anticipated all affect the cost.

The evaluation is for use at Court or for settlement of custody litigation. Health insurance policies generally do not pay for evaluations done for possible litigation.

If further questions remain, please call the office.

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