

Understanding Stuart Showalter's Child Custody Coaching

I have established this guide to help you understand why and how to apply for my services and ultimately get the greatest benefit from those.

Philosophical statement: Child custody decisions are not about the law, but are judgments based upon parenting skills and behaviours. Harmonizing your finances, physical and mental health, spirituality, diet and lifestyle is essential to achieving a better custody decision and relationship with your child.

Public Policy Objective: To ensure that the laws, rules, and policies of the State of Indiana in regards to child custody litigation and placement minimize litigation and conflict while producing the best outcomes for children. To this end I seek to become involved in cases that can have the greatest impact on public policy. These are generally high conflict contested custody cases, those that have been litigated for years, and appeals in which substantial judicial errors have been made.

About my services: I am not an attorney nor do I advocate for any party in a child custody dispute. Instead I am a child custody expert acting as an advisor to parents, practitioners, and policy makers on child custody cases and policy. I coach parents on the best interest of the child standard and how to achieve that in the eyes of the court and on building a better parent-child and parent-parent relationships. I advise attorneys on the nuances of child custody litigation and what they and their clients need to do to achieve a child custody decision that is in the best interest of the children. I make observations of parent-child interactions and provide testimony to judicial officers about those interactions and their connection to the child's best interest.

Finally, I voluntarily provide my opinion to state and federal lawmakers as well as judicial rule making bodies on matters related to the custody of children.

Applying for services: I am able to provide services to about 3% of the people who seek my assistance. I therefore require that all child custody litigants seeking my service complete and application and include a reference. References are accepted from attorneys, legislators, sheriffs or other law enforcement, sitting or retired judges, mental health professionals, or any other agency serving the needs of children. Do not send a life story or case documents to me unsolicited as these will not be read. Approval of applicants is based upon my availability, the potential benefit to the child, and the potential impact upon public policy.

Initial consultation: Before approving an application for services I will conduct a consultation with the applicant in which the case will be reviewed, the applicant evaluated, and a prospective action plan which may include my involvement will be established. The fee for this consultation is \$150. The time commitment is usually 2-3 hours. I do not require an application or payment from any Indiana attorney for an initial consultation.

Fees and communication: The fee for my services is \$120 per hour. I also offer monthly plans at a lower rate, a flat rate for court appearances and a discounted day rate. All phone calls must be scheduled in advance or a surcharge will be incurred. Text messages will be accepted for scheduling purposes. The receipt of information and documents should be by email only. Rates for all contacts are applied in 10 minute increments.

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