

Survey for parents considering joint custody

While the debate rages over whether 50-50 placement of children is the best custodial arrangement or the worst custodial arrangement, many parents will have to decide whether to agree to a 50-50 arrangement or to enter the fight over it. Those parents may wish to consider the following suggested questions (not necessarily listed in order of importance and by no means exhaustive) and honestly examine their own values and motivations, all the while keeping the focus on their children:

1. Will my children benefit from or be harmed by a schedule that creates a situation where they will be waking up one-half of their mornings in one home and one-half of their mornings in another home?
2. Same question as number 1, only in regard to going to sleep?
3. Will the different parenting styles of each parent be a good or bad thing?
4. Will I be ready, willing, and able to cooperate in getting my children's precious belongings back to them when they forget them at my house and need them at the other parent's house?
5. Will I be able to share major decision-making responsibilities with the other parent without unduly involving the children in matters that are for adults to decide?
6. Does it really make sense for me and my family financially to have two entirely different homes for the children? Might it make sense for them to have one primary home?
7. Would I prefer to have a schedule that gives me one-half of the time with my children or would I prefer a schedule that gives me less time, but more quality time with my children?
8. Do I have, or do I expect to have, a new relationship that will keep me from doing a quality job with my children during the 50% of time that I have them?
9. Will my work schedule interfere with providing quality care of my children on a 50-50 basis?
10. Do I want a 50-50 arrangement for any selfish reason other than that it is in their best interests?

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