

CHILD CUSTODY ACCESSIBILITY WORKSHEET

CASE # OR NAME:

Instructions: Check all practices and give examples when possible.

Notes:

NA = Not applicable in this case

NP = Not possible in this case (explain)

1. The child custody process is open and welcoming.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse is physically accessible to all persons.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse is accessible by public transportation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Signage is adequate to direct people to the places they need to go.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court processes are explained in a way that self-represented parties can understand.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forms for requesting custody orders are easily understandable and directions are available in multiple languages.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel provide information on advocacy and community resources to enhance safety.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Interpreters are available to assist throughout the custody process.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel are knowledgeable about child care options and communicate options to parents.	
2. The custody process is understandable and accessible.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel can explain the custody process in a way that self-represented parties can understand.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The court provides information on the custody process to parties in an understandable way through brochures, websites and/or videos in multiple languages.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirements for seeking standard, emergency, temporary and interim custody orders are clear.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel are familiar with the requirements for standard, emergency, temporary and interim custody orders and can accurately communicate those requirements to parties.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel are familiar with the requirements for fee waivers and can	

accurately communicate those requirements to parties.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing training is available for court personnel to maintain and update their knowledge of the custody process and to keep current on new and emerging practices and strategies.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. The child custody process is efficient and streamlined.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The forms are uniform statewide with a uniform front page.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel are knowledgeable about the custody process from start to finish and are willing and able to communicate that knowledge to parties.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel are knowledgeable about their specific roles and functions within the custody process and are able to communicate that knowledge to parties.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel are knowledgeable about the purpose and legal effect of each stage of the custody process and are able to communicate that knowledge to parties.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court dates are scheduled to facilitate the parties' attendance, accomplish their stated function, reduce waiting time, and avoid unnecessary continuances.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Courts allow for different methods of filing and participation to include fax, telephone, video, proxy, and other electronic means when appropriate.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. The court provides a safe environment to parties and enhances compliance with custody orders.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Procedures are in place to identify whether domestic violence is or may be an issue in a custody case, regardless of whether there is a prior PFA, criminal charge or other domestic violence indicator in the file.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel are knowledgeable about their obligation, as neutrals, to treat both parties to a custody case with equal favor and without minimizing, ignoring, or excusing domestic violence.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Address confidentiality is available to domestic violence victims if requested.	

<input type="checkbox"/> The courthouse provides separate waiting areas for parties with a history of domestic abuse.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Security personnel are present in the courthouse and courtroom.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Security personnel are available to accompany parties with a history of domestic abuse into, within, and out of the courthouse without interference from offenders.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. The court utilizes alternative dispute resolution processes with victim safety in mind.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court personnel assess the parties' capacity to engage in alternative dispute resolution processes on the basis of written standards and/or benchmarks for safe involvement, knowing and voluntary participation, good faith and fair dealing, and autonomous decision-making.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Participation in alternative dispute resolution processes is neither mandated nor prohibited by the court but is based on knowing, voluntary and informed consent by both parties.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-represented parties are aware that they can seek to bypass alternative dispute resolution processes even if the statutory conditions for bypass are not met.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Procedures are in place to allow advocates to accompany parties to, and to be present during, all stages of alternative dispute resolution processes.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative dispute resolution processes are structured in a manner that minimizes physical contact, undue influence, coercion, threats, intimidation, and trauma – before, during and after sessions.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate ground rules are established, agreed upon by the parties, monitored and enforced by court personnel at the beginning and all throughout alternative dispute resolution processes.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative dispute resolution processes are confidential.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative dispute resolution processes are freely terminable by either party for any reason or for no reason at all without penalty, negative inference, or coercion by the court.	

<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement agreements, consent decrees, and negotiated parenting plans are the product of autonomous and informed deliberation, free from coercion, threats, intimidation and undue influence.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Court interactions with other disciplines minimize intrusiveness.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>List gaps in best practices:</p> <div style="text-align: center; opacity: 0.3; font-size: 4em; transform: rotate(-20deg); font-family: sans-serif;">DRAFT</div>	