

## ***Best Interests Factors***

When determining custody, the Judge must consider what is in the **BEST INTERESTS** of the child. A child's best interests are determined by consideration of the following:

	<b>1 Both parents' wishes</b>
	The child's relationships with parents, grandparents, siblings, stepparents and other residents of the households
	<b>3 The child's wishes</b>
	4 The child's adjustment to his or her home, school and community
	<b>5 The mental and physical health of all individuals involved</b>
	6 Both parents' past and present compliance with their parental rights and responsibilities
	<b>7 Evidence of domestic violence</b>
	8 The criminal history of both parents and any other resident of the households

The Court may also consider:

<b>Parents' ability to communicate</b> <b>Parents' work schedules</b> <b>Proximity of home, school and daycare</b> <b>Child's previous contact with parents</b>	<b>Drug and alcohol history</b> <b>Number and age of siblings</b> <b>Prior parental interaction</b> <b>Housing arrangements</b>
--	--