

Decision Tree for Safety and Well-being of Children

What is the optimal parenting plan for
the safety and well-being of the
children in this family?

Safety Issues

Children's
Strengths and
Weaknesses

Parenting
Capacity and
Mental Stability

IPV

There are no issues of IPV
that affect the family

Adjustment and Resiliency

The child's temperament
protects the child from
distress and maladjustment

Mental Health

There are no parental
mental health problems
affecting parenting

Child Abuse

There are no issues of
child abuse and/or risk of
abuse that affect the child

Child's Perspective

The child's views and
preferences influence the
optimal parenting plan

Allegations

The parents are not
fabricating allegations for
litigation purposes

Child Neglect

There are no issues of child
neglect and/or risk of neglect
that affect the child

Ages and Stages

The parent's attunement to
the child's needs protects
the child from distress and
maladjustment

Adult Relationships

Historically the parent-
parent relationship has been
positive

Substance Abuse

There are no substance
abuse issues that affect
parenting

History of the Child's
Relationships

Historically the child's
relationships with his/her
parents have been positive

Gatekeeping

Facilitative gatekeeping
positively affects
parenting