

FAMILY COURT SERVICES

Chatsworth Courthouse

9425 Penfield Avenue, Room 3700
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Compton Courthouse

200 W. Compton Blvd. Room 1003
Compton, CA 90220

Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse

275 Magnolia Avenue, Room 3001
Long Beach, CA 90802

Michael D. Antonovich

Antelope Valley Courthouse

42011 4th Street West, Room 3575
Lancaster, CA 93534

Pasadena Courthouse

300 East Walnut Street, Room 100
Pasadena, CA 91101

Pomona Courthouse South

400 Civic Center Plaza, Room 110
Pomona, CA 91766

Stanley Mosk Courthouse

111 N Hill Street, Room 241
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Torrance Courthouse

825 Maple Avenue, Room 450
Torrance, CA 90503

Van Nuys Courthouse East

6230 Sylmar Avenue, Room 213
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Whittier Courthouse

7339 South Painter Avenue, Room 101
Whittier, CA 90602

www.lacourt.org
LASC FCS 025 Rev. 01/24
For Optional Use

Parenting Plan Assessment



Family Court Services
(213) 830-0835



Your Fee for this Assessment:

\$ _____

Date: _____

A **Parenting Plan Assessment (PPA)** is ordered when there are issues which the Court require additional information and clinical judgment. The Family Court Services (FCS) Specialist will interview the parents and any child(ren) aged 8 or older via videoconference using WebEx and/or in-person at the FCS office. The interviews may take place prior to the scheduled dates. The FCS Specialist will contact the parties in advance to set the time and send out video links for each interview if applicable. The parties must submit a Parent Questionnaire and Authorization for Release of Information upon the Court ordering a PPA via the Court website at:

<https://www.lacourt.org/page/FL0135>

As part of the PPA process, the FCS Specialist will require that both parents and child(ren) appear at the FCS office for an individual family observation between the minor child(ren) (all ages) and each parent. The FCS Specialist will arrange the time and location of the family observation in advance.

Prior to the hearing, the FCS Specialist will meet with the parties via video conference, telephone conference or in-person to review recommendations for custody and visitation. Counsel for represented parties will be invited to attend. The hearing will be scheduled at 1:30 pm. The FCS Specialist will testify to their findings and recommendations at the time of the hearing and are subject to cross-examination.

Fees

Unless specifically waived by the Court, the fee for this service must be paid to the Family Law Clerk's Office.

Payment must be received no later than fourteen (14) calendar days from the date that the order for the Parenting Plan Assessment is made. If the fee is not received within those 14 calendar days, the Parenting Plan Assessment will be canceled. If canceled, you will need to seek reinstatement directly from the Court.

If your case settles after payment is made, you must notify the Family Court Services office prior to the commencement of the Parenting Plan Assessment to receive a full refund. Otherwise, a \$53 administrative fee will be assessed.

Written Materials you Wish the FCS Specialist to Review

You must provide the other parent or their lawyer with copies of any written materials before the FCS Specialist can review them. Please provide all documents to the FCS Specialist via email. These documents may include letters or reports from a therapist, physician, law enforcement or school (attendance records or report cards).

Collateral Contacts

Please provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of any persons who have relevant information about the custody issue and who you would like the FCS Specialist to contact. Please keep in mind that the PPA process is limited in time and scope, so the FCS Specialist may not have time to interview or contact everyone you suggest. They may also not have time to review all documents you provide but will focus on the information relevant to the issues before the Court.

The Interview Process

The FCS Specialist will need some time to speak with you without the child(ren) present during your interview, whether in-person, by phone or video conference. If you have a young child(ren), please have someone available who can care for them while you are speaking with the FCS Specialist. Please download the WebEx app to your electronic device (computer, phone, or tablet) in preparation for the video conference if applicable.

Be honest and clear. Do not assume the FCS Specialist already knows something because you told someone else in the court. If you have any trouble understanding the questions or feel you are not being understood, please share your concerns.

Please inform the FCS Specialist as soon as possible if there has been any violence between the parents (verbal, physical, emotional, sexual, or technology-enabled).

If the FCS Specialist finds a reasonable suspicion of child abuse, elder abuse or learns that an individual may harm themselves or others they have a legal and ethical duty to report this information.

The FCS Specialist will provide the parties or their counsel and the Court with written recommendations. The parties are given the opportunity to agree to the recommendations. If they do not agree, the FCS Specialist will testify to their findings and conclusions.