



## HOW ILLINOIS COURTS DECIDE CHILD CUSTODY

# KEY “BEST INTEREST” FACTORS

Explains Illinois-specific factors the court weighs to protect your child’s welfare—essential info for families in Cook, DuPage, Lake, and Will Counties.



### Wishes of the Child

Considered if the child is mature enough to express a preference.



### Child’s Adjustment

To home, school, and community—courts value stability.



### Mental and Physical Health

Of both parents and the child.



### Parent Cooperation

Each parent’s willingness to work together and avoid conflict.



### Parental Involvement History

Who’s made key decisions and cared for the child day-to-day?



### Existing Agreements

Prior parenting plans or informal arrangements.



### Parents’ Wishes

Each parent’s stated preference and proposed schedule.



### Child’s Needs

Age, development, education, and any special requirements.



### Geographic Factors

Distance between homes, school location, transportation issues.



### Safety Issues

Including history of abuse, neglect, or criminal activity.



### Encouraging a Parent-Child Relationship

Willingness to support the child’s bond with the other parent.

***Want clarity on how these factors apply to your family?  
Book a Child Custody Strategy Session today.***

**Schedule Your Custody Consultation**

312-626-0502 | [www.illinoislawforyou.com](http://www.illinoislawforyou.com)