

What Illinois Courts Consider When Deciding Custody

A visual breakdown of the 14 statutory “Best Interests” factors under Illinois law.



CHILD & PARENT FACTORS

- Child's wishes (based on maturity)
- Child's mental and physical health
- Parents' mental and physical health
- Child's needs



ENVIRONMENTAL & PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Adjustment to home, school, community
- Distance between parental residences
- Daily involvement in the last 2 years
- Willingness and ability to place child's needs first
- Prior significant decision-making involvement



PARENTAL BEHAVIOR & COOPERATION

- Ability to cooperate in decision-making
- Willingness to foster relationship with the other parent
- Any history of violence, abuse, or coercion
- Any restrictions under Section 603.10
- Parental agreement (if voluntary and informed)