

Child Custody Evidence Checklist

Not every case needs every item. Use this list to think through what exists, what you still need to request, and what actually connects to your child's day-to-day life.

Communication with the other parent

- ☐ Text messages exported with dates and times (not just screenshots)
- ☐ Emails, printed with full headers
- ☐ Co-parenting app records or exports
- ☐ Call logs (your phone's history or carrier records)
- ☐ Voicemails saved and backed up (recording laws vary by state; check before recording anything)

Parenting time and exchanges

- ☐ The parenting schedule from your current order
- ☐ A calendar showing scheduled vs. actual parenting time
- ☐ An exchange log: late, early, missed, cancelled
- ☐ Messages giving (or not giving) notice of changes

Your child's needs

- ☐ School records: attendance, report cards, teacher emails
- ☐ Medical and dental records, appointments kept or missed
- ☐ Counseling or therapy information (ask the provider what can be shared)
- ☐ Activity and practice schedules, who attended

Home and daily life

- ☐ A written description of the child's routine at your home
- ☐ Photos of the child's space (keep them private; never post case material online)
- ☐ Childcare arrangements and contacts
- ☐ Who helps with transportation and care

Safety concerns (only if they apply)

- ☐ Police reports and incident numbers
- ☐ Protective orders and any violations
- ☐ Medical records of injuries
- ☐ Dated photos of injuries or damage
- ☐ Names of people who saw things first-hand

Court and financial papers

- ☐ Every current order
- ☐ Everything filed by either side, in date order

- ☐ Notices of hearing and proof of service
- ☐ Child support orders, payment history, receipts for shared expenses

People

- ☐ Witnesses who saw events first-hand, with contact information
- ☐ Professionals involved: teacher, pediatrician, counselor, guardian ad litem, evaluator

Keep it child-focused. Evidence carries the most weight when it shows a pattern that affects your child. Never ask your child to gather evidence, carry messages or take sides.

General template for organizing your own information. It is not legal advice and not a court-approved form. Court rules and required forms vary by state and county, so check your court's local rules and self-help center. Doing this by hand takes hours: Custody Commander organizes evidence, builds your timeline and exports court-ready PDFs — free tier and a 14-day free trial at custodycommander.com.