

12 questions for parents

by Pascal Wortmann

Question 1: If you have mainly taken care of the children for the last years and they are doing well, should they after a separation be moved to the other parent by court order?

Question 2: If one parent is insulting, threatening, and blackmailing the other parent over a longer period of time, even with the help of a lawyer - has the offender adequate parental skills?

Question 3: Do you think it makes sense for a court to decide that a child should be split his or her center of life every few days in between conflicting parents in the so-called alternating residence model?

Question 4: Do you think that an alternating residence model for a child over a distance of several hundreds of kilometers is reasonable? Especially if it means missing a week of kindergarten every month? And in connection with vacation arrangements, the child not being able to attend the kindergarten for a long period of time?

Question 5: Should children lose their center of life because one parent does not agree to an alternating residence model? Should siblings grow up separately from each other?

Question 6: If one parent regularly beats the other, even in the presence of the child, do you consider intensive contact with the child to be beneficial and necessary for the child's development?

Question 7: Should one parent be deprived of the child because of being afraid of the abuse and fleeing with the child to a shelter without the consent of the perpetrator?

Question 8: Should a child be weaned so that contact with the other parent can take place without hindrance?

Question 9: Should mentally and physically healthy and socially well-integrated children be taken into custody?

Question 10: Should children who have been sexually abused by a parent continue to have contact with that parent?

Question 11: Should a child lose his or her center of life because one of the parents - e.g. due to physical or/and psychological violence - does not want mediation with the other parent?

Question 12: In Germany the seal of approval for (child-)psychotherapists is the health insurance license, which is based on specialized and many years of training and continuing education. Should children be analyzed by non-licensed persons? Who charge an average of 10,000 euros for their work? And without any control authority or mechanisms?

These questions are increasingly being answered with "yes" in family law proceedings.