Suggestions Regarding How to Win Custody As a Father by Tracy Narvaez

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Despite many best efforts, there remains a legal and sociological preference for children to be raised with their mother. This creates a high burden for fathers to overcome when petitioning for physical custody. Even so, there are valuable suggestions on how to win custody as a father.

Custody is a legal proceeding and you don't have to navigate it without the right attorney by your side. Because of the maternal bias, some people seem to think that having a female family law attorney will help improve your case. Regardless of whether that's true, what will be more likely to improve your case is hiring an attorney who has successfully gained custody for fathers in other cases.

One reason why an attorney with such past success will be so valuable is because of how your case will be presented to the judge. The best attorneys already know how each potential judge that can be assigned to your case thinks. Judges are usually very consistent in the legal arguments they'll accept and the evidence they find compelling. You want to hire an attorney who knows this information about each judge in your jurisdiction.

Turning to the substance of your case, you will want to show a positive relationship between you and your children. You should be as active in their lives as possible, from school to community organizations to their religious upbringing. It can also be helpful to document your presence in their lives through photo albums and videos. This will not only prove your present with them, but give the judge a chance to see you interact with them naturally.

In addition to the visual evidence, paper documentation can also be helpful. This would certainly include receipts for any purchases you make while with your children (dinner) or for them (tuition). If you find that you have to pay for things that their mother should be buying with your child support checks, then take special care to document that. These types of purchases can show that the mother isn't living up to her responsibilities, while you are.

Since you will probably have to show that the children aren't being well cared for with their mother, you'll need as much evidence of that as you can get. Your stories or suspicions won't likely have much weight. You can talk to neighbors to get a sense of what's going on at the home when you're not there. If it makes sense, these neighbors might also be good witnesses.

Your own behavior will be important as well. It can be easy to lose your temper during a custody battle, and there might even be times where it would be perfectly understandable. However, you'll want to remember that getting angry isn't likely to help your case. Courts rely heavily on the evaluations of the professionals with whom you'll have to meet, like psychologists and social workers. Even if you feel humiliated for having to meet with them, it will be more helpful for you to focus on your goal of having your children.

You will probably find going to court to get custody of your children and challenging and emotional experience. You don't have to feel helpless. This is just the start of the suggestions you can have on how to win custody as a father.

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