Best Interest of the Child Letter Example [Template for Legal Use]

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*This best interest of the child letter template should be used in conjunction with the* [*accompanying article*](https://monitoring.bactrack.com/best-interest-of-the-child-letter-example-free-template/) *posted on this subject.*

[Your Full Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

[Date]

RE: Declaration in Support of Custody and Parenting Plan

Case No.: [Insert Case Number]

To the Honorable [Judge’s Last Name]:

I, [Your Full Name], submit this declaration in support of my request for [sole/legal/physical custody] and my proposed parenting plan concerning our minor child(ren): [Child(ren)’s First Name(s)/Initials, Birth Year(s)]. My requests are based on the best interests of the child(ren), in accordance with applicable state laws and guidelines.

***Parenting Responsibilities and History***

Since the birth of my child(ren), I have served as a primary caregiver and have been consistently responsible for [his/her/their] daily care and well-being. This includes tasks such as: [insert routine tasks below]

- Managing all medical and dental appointments

- Assisting with schoolwork and education

- Providing meals, clothing, and hygiene care

- Offering emotional support and consistent discipline

- Coordinating extracurricular activities and social development

[Other parent’s name] has had involvement in [brief description of their typical level of involvement, e.g., occasional weekend care, school pickups, etc.].

***Current Parenting Time Arrangement***

Since our separation on or around [Date], the child(ren) have resided primarily with me. The current parenting schedule consists of [brief description, e.g., alternating weekends, occasional visits, etc.]. I am requesting that this arrangement be formalized and clarified in a parenting plan that reflects the child(ren)’s established routine and sense of stability.

***Best Interests of the Child(ren)***

My custody request is guided by the best interests of the child(ren), including: 1) continuity and stability in their home, school, and community; 2) promoting strong emotional bond with family; 3) predictable and structured routines that support academic, social, and emotional development; and 4) minimization of disruption and conflict during a difficult transition.

I offer a stable home by [provide brief description of stable housing, safety, community, schooling, etc.]. As their primary caregiver, I also aim to deepen the child(ren)’s familial relationships by [explain how you encourage bonds with all family]. I am poised to maintain a regular routine that can support the child(ren)’s development because [explain what allows you to be consistent and provide regular engagement with the child(ren)’s school, friends, counselors, coaches, etc.]. Finally, I have worked hard to create an environment that minimizes distractions and disruptions, despite this being a trying time for myself and my child(ren). [Briefly explain what strategies you use to maintain a peaceful environment, including therapy, mindfulness techniques, a regularly-scheduled outing with the kid(s), or anything that shows your commitment to mitigating the child(ren)’s exposure to turmoil]. My proposed parenting plan supports these priorities. It allows the child(ren) to continue living in their familiar environment, with ongoing and meaningful contact with the other parent.

***Legal Custody Consideration***

I am requesting [sole/joint] legal custody. Historically, I have been the parent primarily responsible for making decisions regarding the child(ren)’s education, health care, and general welfare. I believe it is in the child(ren)’s best interest to continue this decision-making structure for consistency and efficiency.

I am also requesting [insert any other relevant requests here, such as a request for the court to order guideline child support or contributions toward specific expenses, like school tuition or medical needs]. Supporting financial documentation is attached as Exhibits [Letters].

***Conclusion***

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request that the Court adopt my proposed parenting plan, award [sole/joint legal] and [primary/50-50] physical custody, [and establish appropriate child support consistent with state guidelines]. I believe this arrangement serves the best interests of our child(ren) and promotes a stable, nurturing environment for their continued growth.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of [Your State] that the foregoing is true and correct.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

**DISCLAIMERS:**

These templates are intended for use by family law attorneys. Please note the following important considerations:

**Template Nature:** The templates provided are starting points. They do not cover all possible legal scenarios or variations that may be necessary for specific cases. They must be customized to reflect the particular facts and circumstances of each individual case.

**No Legal Advice:** These templates do not constitute legal advice. As a legal professional, you are responsible for ensuring that the content is legally appropriate and compliant with current laws and regulations applicable in the relevant jurisdiction.

**Modification Required:** You are encouraged to modify, add, or omit sections to suit the legal needs and preferences of your clients. Each clause should be reviewed and tailored to ensure it meets the specific requirements and objectives of the parties involved.

**Review and Validation:** It is recommended that you thoroughly review and validate all provisions with due diligence. Consider consulting with or obtaining approval from colleagues or specialists in family law to ensure that the agreement is robust and enforceable.

**Client Communication:** Ensure that all parties involved in the agreement fully understand their rights and obligations as set forth in the document. Clear communication regarding the terms of the agreement is essential for effective implementation and compliance.

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