

CLIENT INTAKE ROLE PLAY #2

You are a thirty-five (35) year old father of two children, ages four (4) and six (6). You have been divorced for about a year and are seeking mediation to resolve issues related to transportation for parenting time and telephone contact with your children.

You were married for six years to your ex-wife and have been divorced since 1999. You describe her as “overly demanding and critical.” You believe that everything was fine in the beginning of the marriage, but after the children came she had no time for you and became angry at everything you did. She spent too much money and you had to make sure not to give her more than she needed or there wouldn’t be anything left for you. She doesn’t seem to understand that you work hard for your money and even now she is never satisfied with the amount of child support she gets from you. As far as you’re concerned, \$300.00 a month for two children is more than enough!

In response to the questions about violence you admit that there was some in the marriage, but it was just a couple of times and she deserved what happened. Usually the two of you would just have verbal fights, but on a couple of occasions, you slapped her. You realize this isn’t right, but what did she expect would happen when she nagged you all the time? Sometimes the children witnessed the violence and you don’t want that for them in the future. There is plenty of arguing and hanging up on the phone when you call to talk to the children, but no physical abuse since the marriage ended.

Your ex-wife has a new boyfriend and she just moved in with him with your children. It is an hour farther away than where they lived before. When you go to pick up the children, you have gotten into arguments with him sometimes. The children tell you he yells at them and you want to make sure that they are safe with you ex. Lately, when you call to talk to the children, they are never home and they don’t call you back. You would really just like to get on with your life and want to find a way to pick up the kids without fighting. If the court says you need to mediate, you are willing to try.