

Family Mediation Skills Role Play

**Mark and Beth
Brianna, 13, and Sophie, 11**

Background Information:

Beth and Mark are the never-married parents of Brianna, age 13, and Sophie, age 11. They lived together the time Brianna was born, and separated about eight (8) months ago. They now live about twenty (20) minutes apart. Mark stayed in the home they lived in and the mortgage is in his name. Beth moved in with her boyfriend, Jason. Things were going well parenting the girls, but then about one (1) month ago, Beth was arrested at her home for a domestic dispute with her boyfriend when the girls were not present.

Beth spent three (3) nights in jail, and has a hearing coming up. Mark found this out from a mutual friend, and then learned that Beth is back with her boyfriend, Jason, after getting out of jail. Although Beth was the aggressor in the incident, Jason does not want to break up with her, and they are still living together. The matter will be heard in the Courts about a month from now.

Mark is very reluctant to have the girls return to Beth's home since this arrest. The girls have not reported any problems before, but do say that mom and Jason "argue" a lot. Mark wants her time with the girls to be supervised, and Beth disagrees that this is necessary. They have contacted the mediation center to work out issues related to parenting time, and safety for the girls.

Mark:

Mark reports he and Beth shared parenting duties when they were together. Mark reports he took the girls to school in the morning, and Beth usually picked them up at night. Beth got the girls' breakfast, and Mark usually made dinner before Beth brought the girls home in the evening. They both cleaned the home, and did laundry, and Mark coached the girls in softball. Beth usually took the girls to scouts and dance class. They both went to conferences at the school.

Mark has greater flexibility in his work schedule than Beth, and since the separation, he has been the one to transport the girls to and from school and they live with him during the school week, spending time with Beth on weekends.

Mark thought it was too soon for Beth to involve the girls with Jason, and now with the domestic dispute, he believes supervised is best until Beth can be trusted again. Mark reports that Beth had been taking medications before she moved out, and he thinks those are for depression, but he is not sure.

Mark is adamant that the girls should not see their mom without supervision. Beth has missed three (3) weekends with them so far, and they are starting to ask about seeing mom. Mark has not discussed with the girls anything to do with the Court, and is afraid that Beth will blame him for not seeing the girls, and tell them everything.

Family Mediation Skills Role Play

**Mark and Beth
Brianna, 13, and Sophie, 11**

Background Information:

Beth and Mark are the never-married parents of Brianna, age 13, and Sophie, age 11. They lived together the time Brianna was born, and separated about eight (8) months ago. They now live about twenty (20) minutes apart. Mark stayed in the home they lived in and the mortgage is in his name. Beth moved in with her boyfriend, Jason. Things were going well parenting the girls, but then about one (1) month ago, Beth was arrested at her home for a domestic dispute with her boyfriend when the girls were not present.

Beth spent three (3) nights in jail, and has a hearing coming up. Mark found this out from a mutual friend, and then learned that Beth is back with her boyfriend, Jason, after getting out of jail. Although Beth was the aggressor in the incident, Jason does not want to break up with her, and they are still living together. The matter will be heard in the Courts about a month from now.

Mark is very reluctant to have the girls return to Beth's home since this arrest. The girls have not reported any problems before, but do say that mom and Jason "argue" a lot. Mark wants her time with the girls to be supervised, and Beth disagrees that this is necessary. They have contacted the mediation center to work out issues related to parenting time, and safety for the girls.

Beth:

Beth reports that supervised time with her children is "out of the question." Beth reports that what happened between her and Jason was all blown out of proportion, and when he called the police, he lied and said she attacked him. Beth is still living with Jason, but is not sure about how long that will last. Yes, they argued, but there is no safety issue for the girls.

Beth cannot afford to live in her apartment if Jason does not contribute, so she is not sure what will happen after Court in a month. Beth's attorney says maybe they will plead it down to a "disorderly conduct" if she is lucky.

Beth has not seen the girls now since the incident, and has missed three (3) weekends with them. Beth reports that when they were together, she did "everything" for the girls and around the house, and Mark barely lifted a finger. Now he thinks he is dad of the year!

Beth has not talked to them on the phone, and is tearful about what the girls must be thinking. Beth does not understand how Mark could think she would ever put the girls in any danger. They weren't even with her when the fight happened!

Beth wants to establish custody and parenting time, and figure out a new schedule where she has more than weekend time. Beth is missing all their schooling, and activities. Beth admits that Mark has not kept her from those things, but with work, and now with this, she is a nervous wreck! Beth says she saw a counselor before she and Mark split up, and began taking some medication for "nerves" but discontinued that because she did not like how she felt.

Beth reports that if someone would just talk to Brianna and Sophie, they would tell that person that they miss their mom. Beth is willing to work something out with Mark, as long as it does not include supervised parenting time.

Family Mediation Skills Role Play

Mark and Beth

Brianna, 13, and Sophie, 11

Background Information for Mediator(s):

Beth and Mark are the never-married parents of Brianna, age 13, and Sophie, age 11. They lived together the time Brianna was born, and separated about eight (8) months ago. They now live about twenty (20) minutes apart. Mark stayed in the home they lived in and the mortgage is in his name. Beth moved in with her boyfriend, Jason. Things were going well parenting the girls, but then about one (1) month ago, Beth was arrested at her home for a domestic dispute with her boyfriend when the girls were not present.

Beth spent three (3) nights in jail, and has a hearing coming up. Mark found this out from a mutual friend, and then learned that Beth is back with her boyfriend, Jason, after getting out of jail. Although Beth was the aggressor in the incident, Jason does not want to break up with her, and they are still living together. The matter will be heard in the Courts about a month from now.

Mark is very reluctant to have the girls return to Beth's home since this arrest. The girls have not reported any problems before, but do say that mom and Jason "argue" a lot. Mark wants her time with the girls to be supervised, and Beth disagrees that this is necessary. They have contacted the mediation center to work out issues related to parenting time, and safety for the girls.

Family Mediation Skills Role Play

Mark and Beth Brianna, 13, and Sophie, 11

Background Information for Mediator(s):

Beth and Mark are the never-married parents of Brianna, age 13, and Sophie, age 11. They lived together the time Brianna was born, and separated about eight (8) months ago. They now live about twenty (20) minutes apart. Mark stayed in the home they lived in and the mortgage is in his name. Beth moved in with her boyfriend, Jason. Things were going well parenting the girls, but then about one (1) month ago, Beth was arrested at her home for a domestic dispute with her boyfriend when the girls were not present.

Beth spent three (3) nights in jail, and has a hearing coming up. Mark found this out from a mutual friend, and then learned that Beth is back with her boyfriend, Jason, after getting out of jail. Although Beth was the aggressor in the incident, Jason does not want to break up with her, and they are still living together. The matter will be heard in the Courts about a month from now.

Mark is very reluctant to have the girls return to Beth's home since this arrest. The girls have not reported any problems before, but do say that mom and Jason "argue" a lot. Mark wants her time with the girls to be supervised, and Beth disagrees that this is necessary. They have contacted the mediation center to work out issues related to parenting time, and safety for the girls.