



# Preparing for a Child Custody Hearing *in Arizona*

## Before Your Court Date...

- With your lawyer's assistance, file all appropriate paperwork to ensure that proceedings are put into motion and respond appropriately to filed documents and summons which may be submitted by other parent.
  - File Dissolution of a Non-Covenant Marriage (Divorce) with Minor Children
  - Respond to a Petition for "Dissolution of a Non-Covenant Marriage (Divorce) With Minor Children"
  - If you have filed the Dissolution, and the other party does not respond, you may submit an Application and Affidavit for Default
  - When both the Dissolution and Response have been registered, you may submit a Motion to Set Trial Date and Certificate of Readiness
- Submit all applicable forms attendant with the Decree of Dissolution (Divorce) for a Non-Covenant Marriage - With Minor Children, including...
  - Child Support Order
  - Parenting Plan
  - Current Employer Information Form
  - Income Withholding Order for Support



## Paperwork to Bring

- Proof of a stable home, including:
  - Pictures of house
  - Rental agreement
  - History of past rental and/or mortgage payments
  - Testimonial from landlord/bank
- Proof of financial stability, including:
  - Paycheck stubs
  - Testimony from your employer
  - Proof of past child support payment, or payment of child-related bills
  - Documentation of assets
- Evidence of your child's wellbeing and performance in your care, including:
  - Report cards
  - Testimonials from teachers, coaches, counselors
  - Phone call or text logs between you and your child
- Evidence of your child's wellbeing and performance in other parent's care, including:
  - Report cards
  - Testimonials from teachers, coaches, counselors
  - Phone call or text logs between your child and other parent
  - Legal records of your ex-spouse
  - Records of any missed visits, drop-offs, etc. by your spouse



## Choosing and Preparing Witnesses

- If your witnesses can't be at the hearing, bring signed affidavits
- Give witnesses time with your lawyer to prepare for questions from both your counsel, and the opposing counsel
- Make sure that any witnesses know exactly where and when to meet before the hearing

## Preparing Yourself for Court

- Dress professionally and sedately
- Review potential questions with your lawyer
- Arrive early and give yourself plenty of time to spare