

Results of Mental Health Professional Survey As To Factors Important in Custody Decisions

Ranking	Average Rating
1. One parent actively disparages other to child	4.62
2. Alcohol/substance abuse by parents	4.60
3. Differences in willingness to work with other or allow/encourage involvement by other parent	4.46
4. Special needs of the child	4.43
5. Differences in parent/child bonding	4.37
6. Psychopathology in either parent	4.27
7. Differences in parenting skill/capacity	4.26
8. Quality of child care provided	4.14
9. Older child's preference for one parent over another	4.00
10. Parent's ability to manage household	3.79
11. Parent's schedule that allows more time with child	3.41
12. General social involvement of either parent	3.33
13. Young child's preference for one parent over another	3.21
14. Differences in parenting style	3.19
15. The age of the child	3.19
16. The ability of the parent to financially support a family	3.09
17. Parent is openly cohabiting with someone	2.77
18. One parent has remarried (apparently healthy relationship)	2.73
19. Sex of the child	2.54
20. Parent is openly homosexual	2.40
21. Preference of a mother over a father	2.06