

Child Custody – Case One

Susan F. and Gerald F. are being evaluated as part of a child custody lawsuit. Susan, age 38, has a four-year college degree in business and works as a human relations consultant at a retail corporation. Gerald, age 40, has a law degree and is employed as a product liability attorney.

Susan and Gerald have been married for nine years and have two children, ages five and seven. They have experienced marital difficulties for the past several years and were separated for six months five years ago. After marital counseling, they resumed their relationship. They separated again 11 months ago. Susan is pursuing the divorce and is seeking sole custody of the children based on her reports of Gerald's extensive drug use and abusive behavior toward her and the children. She indicates she is afraid of him. She obtained a court order to require his visits with the children to be supervised.

Gerald has a history of substance abuse and has received outpatient treatment for addiction on two occasions. He has resumed substance use in recent months.