

Checklist for Appointment of Counsel for Child

Consider the following factors in deciding whether to appoint separate counsel for a child [FC §3150(a); CRC 5.240]:

- Is the appointment in the child's best interest?
- Is the dispute exceptionally intense or protracted?
- Is the dispute subjecting the child to stress that might be alleviated by separate counsel?
- Is separate counsel likely to provide significant information not otherwise readily available or likely to be presented? This may occur, for example, if your county has nonrecommending mediation.
- Has someone alleged that a parent, stepparent, or other person with the parent's knowledge physically or sexually abused the child?
- Does it appear that neither parent is capable of providing a stable and secure environment?
- Can the child express his or her views?