

Issue in Dispute chart: For each issue you wish to pursue, fill out a chart.

Issue in Dispute		
<i>Write the issue here:</i>		
What do you want the court to order? Or, what fact do you want the judge or jury to believe?		
Your arguments:	Specific examples to support your arguments:	Examples of proof you can use to support your arguments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should the court give the order you want? • Why should the judge or jury believe the fact you are stating? 		

Sample One – Custody Issue

Issue in Dispute (Custody Example)		
<i>We cannot agree on where our children should live. I want them to live with me and he wants them to live with him.</i>		
What do you want the court to order? Or, what fact do you want the judge or jury to believe?		
<i>I think the children should live with me primarily and visit with him.</i>		
Your arguments:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should the court give the order you want? • Why should the judge or jury believe the fact you are stating? 	Specific examples to support your arguments:	Examples of proof you can use to support your arguments:
<i>I have been their primary caregiver.</i>	<p><i>-I quit my job after the birth of our first child and have not resumed working.</i></p> <p><i>-Our children have never been in daycare and with babysitters only on rare occasions.</i></p> <p><i>-I take children to all commitments (school, doctor, activities)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Employment records</i> • <i>Tax records</i> • <i>Correspondence between the parties</i> • <i>Witnesses</i> • <i>Doctors reports/records</i> • <i>School records</i>
<i>Our oldest child has special medical needs that I can best manage.</i>	<i>-Our oldest son has asthma and severe allergies that require special medications and treatments. I have been trained to manage his illnesses and father has not.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prescriptions</i> • <i>Doctors reports/records</i> • <i>Training certification</i>
<i>The other parent works long hours during the week and I don't want our children in daycare.</i>	<p><i>-The other parent is in sales and the position requires travel frequently through the week.</i></p> <p><i>-He also works long hours and is rarely home before the children's bedtime.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Employment records</i> • <i>Tax records</i> • <i>Correspondence between parties</i> • <i>Travel receipts</i>

Sample Two – Divorce Issue

Issue in Dispute (Divorce Example)		
<i>I need financial support from my spouse after our divorce.</i>		
What do you want the court to order? Or, what fact do you want the judge or jury to believe?		
<i>I think I should receive money from her for the rest of my life.</i>		
<p>Your arguments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should the court give the order you want? • Why should the judge or jury believe the fact you are stating? 	<p>Specific examples to support your arguments:</p>	<p>Examples of proof you can use to support your arguments:</p>
<i>I supported my spouse when she was earning her advanced degree in school.</i>	<i>-I did not go to school and worked so she could finish her degree and earn an advanced degree. She was supposed to do the same for me but never did.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Employment records</i> • <i>Tax records</i> • <i>School records</i> • <i>Witnesses</i>
<i>I managed all the household responsibilities during our marriage including caring for our children.</i>	<p><i>-I cared for the children and we both were against daycare.</i></p> <p><i>-I managed all of our children’s commitments (school, doctor, activities)</i></p> <p><i>-I ran the household (cleaning, cooking, shopping, organization) for more than 15 years.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Witnesses</i> • <i>Doctors reports</i> • <i>School records/degrees</i> • <i>Tax records</i>
<i>My spouse earns plenty of money to help support me. I cannot earn as much.</i>	<i>My spouse earns at least \$150,000 per year without commissions (and has the potential for annual commissions too). I applied for more than 10 jobs and found only part time work at just above minimum wage.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Employment records/Pay stubs</i> • <i>Tax records</i> • <i>Correspondence between parties</i> • <i>Copies of job applications/responses</i> • <i>Proof of age</i> • <i>Social Security Statements</i>