

CUSTODY HEARING: WHAT TO EXPECT

When parents decide not to be married anymore, this is called a divorce.



A divorce is not my fault.



My parents might be sad or angry.



I might feel sad, angry, anxious and confused. It's ok to have these feelings.



My parents may not agree on where I should live and how much time I get to spend with each of them. The court will need to decide. This is called a custody hearing.



The time I spend with each parent is called "custody."



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Someone from the court, called a guardian ad litem, might ask how I feel and where I want to live. It's important that I tell this person the truth about how I feel.



The guardian ad litem will tell the judge about what is best for me.



The judge might ask me how I feel and they might want to talk to me in their office. It's important I am honest with the judge about how I feel.



The judge will make a decision on what they think is best for me.



There will be some changes in where I live and how much I see each of my parents.



I need to remember that both of my parents love me and will help me with the changes.

