

ROLE PLAY SCENARIO: BOWENS V. BOWENS GENERAL INFORMATION

After fifteen years of marriage, Paulette Bowens has filed for divorce against her husband, Joe Bowens. The Bowens have three children, 12-year-old twins, James and Catherine, and 3-year-old Bobby. The Bowens are both physicians and reside in Lenox. Financially, they are very comfortable.

An unhappy marriage has led the Bowens to a miserable divorce. Neither has agreed to vacate the marital domicile. Since Paulette filed for divorce four months ago, theirs' has been a life filled with tension. With summer approaching, they are utterly unable to come to terms regarding parenting time with the children.

Joe has filed a Motion for Temporary Order of Parenting Time seeking the entire month of July with the children at the couple's Chatham home. To tie up any loose ends, he is seeking Columbus Day weekend with the children in New York City, the twins' birthdays the weekend of November 3rd in NYC with his mother, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve.

Suffice it to say, Paulette is adamantly opposed to all that Joe has requested. As far as she is concerned, Joe's drinking is out-of-control, and she won't agree to any unsupervised parenting time whatsoever. To be fair, Joe's drinking habit is no more than a figment of Paulette's imagination, but he knows she'll never see the truth.

Despite their differences, the Bowens have agreed to conciliate Joe's Motion. Joe represents himself. Paulette is represented by counsel. Attorney Smith is the Volunteer Conciliator for the day in the Norfolk County Probate and Family Court.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOE

The divorce has really **worn you down**.

As soon as this Motion is adjudicated, you intend to **move out** of the marital domicile.

Ultimately, you would like a permanent **50/50** shared physical custody plan.

But, you would be satisfied with having the children **one-third** of the time.

Admittedly, your demand for a Temporary Order of Parenting Time is inflated.

In fact, you are willing to **compromise**.

You **will not compromise**, however, on Paulette's request for **supervised parenting time**.

Her request for **supervised parenting** time is wholly **unwarranted**.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAULETTE

You have **had it** with Joe and cannot wait for the divorce to be final.

You're worn down and **need a break** from Joe and the children. It is important to resolve these issues quickly.

You have been the children's primary caretaker for their entire lives and believe it is very important that they spend the **holidays at home with you** -- not a half-day here and a half-day there.

Although you have **strong feelings** about Joe's carefree **lifestyle**, your attorney believes that your concerns about his drinking are unsupported.

You have little proof that Joe's drinking would negatively influence the children during their visits.

Ultimately, you know that you may have to agree to **unsupervised parenting** time.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAULETTE'S COUNSEL

Paulette has **had it** with Joe and cannot wait for the divorce to be final.

She has told you that she is worn down and needs a break from Joe and the children.

Paulette has been the children's **primary caretaker** for their entire lives and believes it is very important that they spend the holidays at home with her -- not a half-day here and a half-day there.

Paulette has strong feelings about Joe's carefree lifestyle.

You strongly believe that her concerns about **Joe's drinking are unsupported**.

Ultimately, she may have to agree to **unsupervised parenting** time.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONCILIATOR

Contested Issues:

1. Motion for Temporary Order of Parenting Time:

Month of July

Columbus Day Weekend

Twins' Birthday Weekend- November 3rd in New York City

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Eve

2. Supervised vs. Unsupervised Visits:

(Paulette feels Joe's drinking is out-of-control but her attorney and Joe himself believe these concerns are unsupported)

Conciliator's Goals:

To facilitate a resolution about the issue of supervised vs. unsupervised visits.

To facilitate a resolution of parenting time.