

8 months after that..

The custody evaluation is completed and the evaluator found that there was no evidence that George represented a danger to either child.

The evaluator recommended a 2-2-5-5 parenting plan with all transitions to occur at neutral locations. .” The evaluator noted patterns of behavior in Mary that were consistent with enmeshment and alienation, but also noted that George might need some counseling or parent education to help him deal with the fact that time had passed and different responses might be necessary (i.e. if Jeremy is being targeted at school for his weight, an activity other than team sports might be necessary). She recommended that both parents complete a parenting course geared toward the developmental needs of children Brittany’s age. She noted that George might need to learn more about the developmental sensitivities of young children, while Mary needed to learn about supporting age appropriate autonomy..

Mary has just filed an emergency motion to restrict George’s parenting time. She alleges that, following her second custodial period at Father’s home, Brittany returned in tears and stated that she was crying in the bathtub at Daddy’s house and Daddy was mad. Mary took Brittany to see a therapist without telling George. She alleges that Brittany had a nightmare and afterwards pointed to her genital area and said, “Daddy, no.” The therapist filed a suspected child abuse report with CPS dismissed. Mary complains that George refuses to pay for play therapy for Brittany, which she wants ordered by the court. George does not object to therapy but wants an equal say in choosing the person and does not want the person who already saw Brittany to continue. He has hired an expert to testify about this and has a general idea of the caliber of therapist the family needs, but insists that Mary pay for half the cost of a private therapist. Mary says she has no money. Jeremy is now openly rude to George when he comes to school, to the point that other parents and teachers have stepped in to redirect her behavior. She says that soon she will talk to the court so she doesn’t have to see George. Jeremy has continued to gain weight and have problems with peers.