

1. Parenting Time - I believe a 50/50 parenting time arrangement would be in the best interest of our child. Although I have been away serving in the military, I have consistently made efforts to be involved in my son's life, including visiting him whenever I came home and providing financial support. I have always prioritized my son's well-being, and I am committed to being an active and engaged father now that I am out of service. Unfortunately, despite my efforts to maintain a relationship with my son, I have been denied the opportunity to spend adequate time with him. It is unfair and not in my son's best interest to be deprived of the chance to bond and develop a strong relationship with both parents.
2. I have been involved in my son's life since his birth on November 26, 2017. I lived with my son, Amber, and her mother until I left for the military on February 3, 2019. My decision to join the military was motivated by my desire to be a better role model for my son and certain benefits for his future. Throughout my military service, I tried to communicate with him whenever possible. Still, I could only visit him in person during the holidays, primarily Christmas, due to the high cost of tickets from California to Atlanta. When I spent time with my son, it was usually just the two of us, or we would be with my family. We engaged in activities he enjoyed, such as visiting the Georgia Aquarium, Coca-Cola World, Dave & Buster's, or spending time at home or the park. I will provide as much proof as possible from our messages to support my involvement in my son's life.
3. In response to question three, it is difficult to provide an exact number of times I requested to see my son since his birth. I lived with my son from the time he was born until I left for boot camp, after which I was stationed in California and had a 4-year contract with the military, including seven months in Japan. The only opportunities I had to see my son were when I returned home during the holidays. However, towards the end of my military contract, I experienced difficulties seeing my son due to Amber's reluctance to let me visit him, citing her unfamiliarity with my girlfriend at the time and her dissatisfaction with the financial support I could provide. In addition to the limited opportunities I had to see my son in person, I consistently maintained contact with him through phone calls and FaceTime. Often, I would wait for my family to have my son so that I could talk to him and maintain our connection despite the distance between us. I will provide messages and photographs as evidence of my time with my son during my visits and our interactions.
4. For question four, while I don't have records of every expense I've incurred for my sons, such as meals, activities, and various items I bought for him during our time together, I have maintained records of the financial support I provided through my sister. I would send money to my sister to help cover my son's food, clothing, and other necessities when she cared for him. Additionally, I sent her funds to assist with daycare and living expenses for my son. I have records of these transactions, and the total amount I provided from 2020 is approximately \$13,724.

5. Child Support Award: The amount of child support should be based on both parents' income and expenses and our son's best interests. At the moment, I am unemployed but actively seeking a job, preferably as an entry-level software engineer. While I am job hunting, my financial situation is limited, but I am committed to providing for my son as soon as I secure employment. I also have a wife whom I need to support. Given my current situation and the cost of living in Lawrenceville, GA, I propose that a reasonable child support amount be determined following Georgia's child support guidelines once I secure a job. I am willing to provide any necessary documentation, including proof of income and expenses, to ensure that the amount is fair and appropriate for the well-being of our son.
6. For question number 6, I will be providing my W-2 forms for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 as evidence of my primary source of income during those years, which was from the United States Marine Corps. These documents will serve to confirm my earnings during the specified period. Additionally, I have received \$365 per week from unemployment benefits since I left the Marine Corps and am actively seeking employment. I have also completed my VA disability exams and await the results to determine if I will receive any compensation related to my military service.
7. For question number 7, during my last six months in the Marine Corps, I had the opportunity to participate in a program called "Operation Level Up" through Galvanize. This coding boot camp offers a comprehensive curriculum for transitioning service members who want to become professional software engineers. The program is a part of the Army Career Skills and DoD Skillbridge Program, aiming to support service members transitioning into civilian careers as software engineers. Over 18 weeks, I underwent rigorous training focused on professional communication, workplace expectations, computer science fundamentals, and JavaScript web development. I completed the program and graduated as a full-stack software engineer on February 10th. My contract with the Marine Corps ended on February 4th, and I moved to Georgia on February 23rd. Since graduating, I have been actively job hunting and working on personal projects to showcase my skills as a full-stack web developer. In addition to building my portfolio, I have been preparing for technical interviews, which typically involve demonstrating problem-solving skills and technical knowledge by completing coding challenges or answering questions related to programming concepts. I network on LinkedIn (my profile can be found at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/fernandcastro958/>) to stay updated on the latest technology trends and connect with potential employers. I also apply to at least four job positions per week and attend meetings with partner companies that Galvanize has connections with. During this time, I have been settling into my new home in Georgia, organizing my personal belongings and those of my wife, and managing the demands of this court case. The program I completed through Galvanize prepares graduates for an extensive job hunt lasting up to six months. I am diligently working on securing a position as an entry-level software engineer.

8. For question number 8, communication with Amber has been challenging lately, and it started to deteriorate when I introduced my wife to the picture. I spent four years away from my son, missing holidays and birthdays and making numerous sacrifices. The one thing I was looking forward to after my time in the military was finally being able to spend time with my son. It feels unfair that I can hardly see him, and I am treated more like a bank account than a father. All I do is send money, yet I have no right to see my son when I want to. Everything is under Amber's control, and it hurts because I have done everything to be the best role model for my son, and now I cannot enjoy the time I have been looking forward to.

The situation becomes overly complicated whenever I ask to see my son, as I will demonstrate with the evidence I provide. Like any father, I want to have time with my son without being subjected to restrictive time limits

9. For question number 9, I would like to list the following witnesses who can attest to my involvement in my son's life and my desire to spend time with him:

Sister: Aimee Ventura, phone: 404-668-9562

Brother-in-law: Armando Ventura

Wife: Maria Luna Chavez, phone: 760-978-2737

Mother: Margarita Castro, phone: 678-760-8394

Father: Fernando Castro, phone: 678-612-1793

These individuals have firsthand knowledge of my relationship with my son and can provide valuable insight into my efforts to be a present and active father in his life.

10. For question number 10, I will attach all the relevant documents, messages, photos, and other evidence that I believe support my claims and demonstrate my commitment to being a present and active father in my son's life. These materials will provide the court with a comprehensive understanding of my involvement and dedication to my son's wellbeing.

11. For question number 11, the fees associated with this case are \$1,500. However, the receipt for the payment is under my mother's name, as she initially covered the cost until I received reimbursement from the Marine Corps. I will attach the receipt as well as documentation of me paying my mother back for her assistance, demonstrating that I have taken financial responsibility for the fees related to this case.

12. For question number 12, I will provide the same individuals as witnesses as I mentioned in the answer to question 11. They are:

Aimee Ventura (sister)

Phone: 404-668-9562

Armando Ventura (brother-in-law)

Phone: 470-662-9498

Maria Luna Chavez (wife)

Phone: 760-978-2737

Margarita Castro (mother)

Phone: 678-760-8394

Fernando Castro (father)

Phone: 678-612-1793

These witnesses can testify on my behalf and provide valuable insight into my character, my relationship with my son, and my dedication to providing the best possible life for him.

