

**Custody**  
**DC CODE §16-914 (a)(3)**

To determine the best interest of the child, the court shall consider all relevant factors, including, but not limited to:

- (A) the wishes of the child as to his or her custodian, where practicable;
- (B) the wishes of the child's parent or parents as to the child's custody;
- (C) the interaction and interrelationship of the child with his or her parent or parents, his or her siblings, and any other person who may emotionally or psychologically affect the child's best interest;
- (D) the child's adjustment to his or her home, school, and community;
- (E) the mental and physical health of all individuals involved;
- (F) evidence of an intrafamily offense as defined in [§ 16-1001\(8\)](#);
- (G) the capacity of the parents to communicate and reach shared decisions affecting the child's welfare;
- (H) the willingness of the parents to share custody;
- (I) the prior involvement of each parent in the child's life;
- (J) the potential disruption of the child's social and school life;
- (K) the geographic proximity of the parental homes as this relates to the practical considerations of the child's residential schedule;
- (L) the demands of parental employment;
- (M) the age and number of children;
- (N) the sincerity of each parent's request;
- (O) the parent's ability to financially support a joint custody arrangement;
- (P) the impact on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or Program on Work, Employment, and Responsibilities, and medical assistance; and
- (Q) the benefit to the parents.

**Property**  
**DC CODE §16-910**

- (A) The duration of the marriage or domestic partnership;
  - (B) The age, health, occupation, amount, and sources of income, vocational skills, employability, assets, debts, and needs of each of the parties;
  - (C) Provisions for the custody of minor children;
  - (D) Whether the distribution is in lieu of or in addition to alimony;
  - (E) Each party's obligation from a prior marriage, a prior domestic partnership, or for other children;
  - (F) The opportunity of each party for future acquisition of assets and income;
  - (G) Each party's contribution as a homemaker or otherwise to the family unit;
  - (H) Each party's contribution to the education of the other party, which enhanced the other party's earning ability;
  - (I) Each party's increase or decrease in income as a result of the marriage, the domestic partnership, or duties of homemaking and child care;
  - (J) Each party's contribution to the acquisition, preservation, appreciation, dissipation, or depreciation in value of the assets that are subject to distribution, the taxability of these assets, and whether the asset was acquired or the debt incurred after separation;
  - (K) The effects of taxation on the value of the assets subject to distribution; and
  - (L) The circumstances that contributed to the estrangement of the parties, including the history of physical, emotional, or financial abuse by one party against the other; and
- (3)(A) At the request of a party to proceedings for dissolution of marriage or for legal separation of the parties, enter an order, prior to the final determination of ownership of a pet animal, to require a party to care for the pet animal. The existence of an order providing for the care of a pet animal during the course of proceedings for dissolution of marriage or for legal separation of the parties shall not have any impact on the court's final determination of ownership of the pet animal.
- (B) The court, at the request of a party to proceedings for dissolution of marriage or for legal separation of the parties, may assign sole or joint ownership of a pet animal, taking into consideration the care and best interest of the pet animal.

**Alimony**  
**DC CODE §16-913(d)**

- (d) In making an award of alimony, the Court shall consider all the relevant factors necessary for a fair and equitable award, including, but not limited to, the:
  - (1) ability of the party seeking alimony to be wholly or partly self-supporting;
  - (2) time necessary for the party seeking alimony to gain sufficient education or training to enable that party to secure suitable employment;
  - (3) standard of living that the parties established during their marriage or domestic partnership, but giving consideration to the fact that there will be 2 households to maintain;
  - (4) duration of the marriage or domestic partnership;
  - (5) circumstances which contributed to the estrangement of the parties, including the history of physical, emotional or financial abuse by one party against the other;
  - (6) age of each party;
  - (7) physical and mental condition of each party;
  - (8) ability of the party from whom alimony is sought to meet his or her needs while meeting the needs of the other party; and
  - (9) financial needs and financial resources of each party, including:
    - (A) income;
    - (B) income from assets, both those that are the property of the marriage or domestic partnership and those that are not;
    - (C) potential income which may be imputed to non-income producing assets of a party;
    - (D) any previous award of child support in this case;
    - (E) the financial obligations of each party;
    - (F) the right of a party to receive retirement benefits; and
    - (G) the taxability or non-taxability of income.