

Susan and Jerome HateEachOther

- Susan and Jerome HateEachOther were married for 12 years before separating 18 months ago
- They have two children –Sherry, age 5 and Jeremy, age 10
- By agreement the children spend most of their time with Jerome and reside with Susan Every Wednesday and Thursday and alternate weekends
- Susan is an executive in a tech company; Jerome is a guidance counselor at a local middle school
- Although both parents work, Susan was the primary breadwinner

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

- Both parents have struggled with weight for most of their lives
- A year before the separation, Susan became involved with a health club and lost 30 lbs.
- She was frustrated that Jerome was not willing to join her in this effort and this was a factor in the separation
- The parents had fights about this which were occasionally overheard by the children
- Susan has maintained her weight loss and exercises daily; Jerome remains 40 lbs overweight

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

- Jeremy:
- Had been involved in a swim club since the age of 7
 - Began to withdraw from the activity as his parents separated
 - Complained of not feeling well at the time of swimming practice
 - Now says he doesn't like swimming

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

Jeremy:

- o Has gained substantial weight since his parents separated
- o Is now at the 90th percentile for his age
- o Is being teased by peers about his weight
- o Has withdrawn socially and spends most of his free time playing video games

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

Susan has filed an emergency motion:

- o Requesting more time with the children
- o Requesting that Jeremy be required to resume his participation in the swim club
- o Requesting that both parents be required to follow any diet recommended by the pediatrician
- o States that the pediatrician agrees with her.

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

Jerome:

- o States that Jeremy is overeating because he is upset at the divorce and at the way Susan treats him
- o Alleges that Susan
 - Makes rejecting comments toward Jeremy and denies him the foods he likes
 - Favors Sherry by allowing her to eat what she likes
- o Jerome wants counseling for Jeremy and states that the pediatrician agrees with him

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

Jeremy:

- Is resisting spending time with Susan because she limits his food and requires that he exercise.
- Believes Susan favors Sherry and has begun to bully his sister, a new behavior.
- Says he hates swimming and doesn't want to try any other form of exercise.

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

Jerome:

- Believes that Jeremy will stop overeating when he feels better emotionally
- Is not prepared to "force" Jeremy into an exercise activity that he doesn't want
- Does not believe Jeremy should be forced to spend time with Susan until he is more comfortable with her

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

Susan:

- Has been told that Jeremy is at risk of diabetes (a fact confirmed by the pediatrician)
- Susan does not want Jeremy to face the misery she faced while she was overweight
- Has heightened anxiety about the medical risk since her father died of an obesity-related condition

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

Jerome:

- oBelieves that Jeremy needs to learn to love the body he has
- oBelieves that if Susan could see beyond appearances she would never have left the marriage
- oSees his role as providing comfort to Jeremy

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HateEachOther Family Cont.

Sherry

- oIs of normal weight
- oSeemed largely unaffected until Jeremy started teasing her and resisting transitions to Susan
- oBecomes tearful and regresses when Jeremy does not accompany her

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