

Susan and Jerome HateEachOther

1.
 - 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
2.
 - 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
3.

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
4.

Jeremy:

 - Has gained substantial weight since his parents separated
 - Is now at the 90th percentile for his age
 - Is being teased by peers about his weight
 - Has withdrawn socially and spends most of his free time playing video games
5.

Susan has filed an emergency motion:

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

6.

Jerome:

- States that Jeremy is overeating because he is upset at the divorce and at the way Susan treats him
- 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
- Jerome wants counseling for Jeremy and states that the pediatrician agrees with him

7.

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.

8.

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

9.

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

10.

Jerome:

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

11.

Sherry

- Is of normal weight

- Seemed largely unaffected until Jeremy started teasing her and resisting transitions to Susan
- Becomes tearful and regresses when Jeremy does not accompany her