



ELEVATE WITH VOCATIONAL EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST

FAQS

DIVORCE & CUSTODY

What is a vocational evaluation?

A vocational evaluation is an objective assessment of an individual's education, experience, skills, and earning potential. It provides evidence-based insight into employability and realistic income capacity for use in divorce and custody proceedings.

When is a vocational evaluation needed in divorce cases?

Vocational evaluations are commonly requested when:

- *One spouse claims they cannot work or can only earn minimum wage.*
- *There's a dispute over voluntary unemployment or underemployment.*
- *A spouse has been out of the workforce for an extended period.*
- *An attorney needs credible data to support or challenge spousal or child support amounts.*

What is an earning capacity evaluation?

An earning capacity evaluation determines what an individual could earn in today's labor market—not just what they are earning. It considers work history, education, transferable skills, and regional job market data to establish realistic earning potential.

How does an earning capacity evaluation impact spousal or child support?

The findings help courts impute income fairly by providing a credible estimate of a spouse's potential earnings. This ensures that support calculations are based on ability, not assumption.

What is a spousal support analysis?

A spousal support analysis examines the employability and earning potential of both parties. It provides impartial evidence to help determine whether support is appropriate and, if so, what amount and duration are reasonable.

What is an employability assessment?

An employability assessment focuses on an individual's readiness to return to work after time away for childcare, relocation, or other family responsibilities. It identifies retraining needs, career options, and available employment opportunities that fit current skills and interests.

How does expert testimony support family law cases?

Our vocational experts present findings in clear, defensible terms that help judges and mediators understand the vocational data. We explain complex labor market information in plain language, strengthening your argument for fair support and custody outcomes.



REACH OUT TODAY ☎ 503-536-2678

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What factors are considered in your evaluations?

We assess:

- Education, skills, and professional background
- Transferable skills and job market demand
- Regional wage data and hiring trends
- Health or caregiving barriers to employment

What does the evaluation process include?

1. *Case Intake & Record Review: Review of background, education, medical reports, and employment history.*
2. *Client Interview & Assessment: Structured interviews and testing when appropriate.*
3. *Labor Market Research: Analysis of regional employment data and wages.*
4. *Report & Testimony: A clear, defensible report with the option for courtroom testimony.*

How soon can an evaluation be completed?

Turnaround time depends on case complexity, but we typically deliver reports within 2–4 weeks of receiving all necessary information and client participation.

Can Elevate Northwest provide testimony if the case goes to trial?

Yes. Our experts are qualified to testify in state and federal courts and are experienced in presenting findings clearly, objectively, and persuasively.

What documentation should attorneys provide?

To begin, we typically request:

- Educational and employment records
- Résumés or work history summaries
- Medical or psychological evaluations (if applicable)
- Income and financial disclosures
- Case pleadings relevant to employment or support issues

How does vocational evidence strengthen my client's case?

It adds credibility and clarity. Vocational reports give judges and mediators an objective, data-based foundation to make equitable decisions—reducing speculation and supporting fair outcomes for all parties.

