

BestInterest Co-Parenting App

Judicial Reference Guide

AI-Powered Communication Moderation as a Family Court Intervention

BestInterest is designed to reduce post-decree litigation by transforming passive communication documentation into active conflict de-escalation.

Executive Summary

High-conflict co-parenting cases generate a disproportionate share of post-decree litigation. BestInterest is purpose-built for exactly these cases — the only co-parenting application that proactively prevents harmful communication rather than merely documenting it. Through real-time AI moderation, BestInterest functions similarly to a court-ordered parenting coordinator: it reduces conflict, keeps communication child-focused, and produces a reliable record of co-parenting interactions. Unlike a parenting coordinator, it operates continuously at a fraction of the cost, without requiring court administration of an ongoing professional relationship.

BestInterest intercepts hostile and off-topic messages before they reach the recipient and creates tamper-proof, court-admissible records with a Certificate of Authenticity. Unlike every other court-ordered co-parenting tool, BestInterest's core features — messaging, shared calendar, and expense tracking — are available at no cost, meaning a court order does not compel either party into an open-ended paid subscription. One party may subscribe for enhanced AI features; the other communicates for free. This document provides family court judicial officers with a technical overview of BestInterest's capabilities, a comparison with other court-ordered interventions, expert endorsements, and suggested court order language.

I. The Problem: Communication Conflict and Judicial Burden

High-conflict co-parenting communication imposes a substantial and documented burden on family courts. Parents unable to communicate civilly generate repeated motions for contempt, emergency hearings, and custody modification requests — often for months or years following the initial determination.

Research published in the *Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law* (Heard et al., 2023)¹ found that family law professionals across multiple jurisdictions identify hostile co-parenting communication as a primary driver of post-decree litigation. A separate evaluation published in *Family Court Review* (Smyth et al., 2023)² found that existing co-parenting tools provide

¹Heard, G., Smyth, B., & Higgins, D. (2023). Risks and benefits of post-separation parenting apps: perceptions of family law professionals. *Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law*, 45(2).

²Smyth, B., Cheng, A., & Rodgers, B. (2023). Popular post-separation parenting smartphone apps: An evaluation. *Family Court Review*, 61(3), 456–472.

valuable documentation of communication but do not address the root cause: the messages themselves.

Documentation of conflict and prevention of conflict are not the same intervention.

Currently available court-ordered tools — including OurFamilyWizard and TalkingParents — create records of harmful exchanges after they occur. These records are useful in litigation but do not reduce the frequency or intensity of conflict. Parents using these platforms continue to send and receive hostile, manipulative, or abusive messages; the platform archives them. The conflict continues until it returns to court. BestInterest addresses this gap with a fundamentally different approach: proactive moderation that intercepts harmful communication before it can cause further damage.

II. How BestInterest Works

BestInterest employs AI moderation at two points in the communication cycle that sets it apart from every other available tool:

A. Incoming Message Filtering (Message Shield®)

Messages sent by one co-parent are analyzed by AI before delivery to the other. Content assessed as hostile, inflammatory, abusive, or unrelated to the children's welfare is filtered prior to delivery. The receiving parent receives only communication that has cleared the moderation threshold. Filtered content is preserved in the system's unalterable audit record. To ensure due process and transparency, the recipient may choose to view the original, unfiltered message at their discretion (e.g., during a session with a therapist or legal counsel), though it remains shielded from daily view to prevent ongoing trauma and escalation.

B. Outgoing Message Review (Tone Guardian®)

Before a message is sent, the application analyzes the sender's draft and identifies language likely to escalate conflict. The sender is offered suggested revisions and retains the final decision to proceed or revise. To encourage honest self-correction, initial drafts and AI suggestions remain private to the sender; only the final message sent is added to the permanent, court-admissible record. This feature directly supports compliance with court orders requiring parties to maintain civil, child-focused communication.

C. Financial Accessibility — No Mandatory Subscription for Either Party

BestInterest's core functionality — including messaging, shared parenting calendar, and expense tracking — is available at no cost to either party. A court order to use BestInterest does not compel either party into a paid subscription. One party may elect to pay for enhanced AI features while the other participates fully in shared communication tools at no charge.

- Unlike competitors that require dual paid subscriptions, BestInterest ensures that no parent is 'priced out' of a court-ordered communication channel.
- This distinguishes BestInterest from every other court-ordered co-parenting tool. OurFamilyWizard, AppClose, and TalkingParents require both parties to maintain separate paid accounts; as subscription prices increase over time, families are locked

into escalating costs tied to their court order. With BestInterest, the court's order does not create an involuntary or open-ended financial obligation for either party.

For cases in which one party is non-compliant with a court order to use the application, BestInterest is also compatible with standard SMS communication — the compliant party's BestInterest account can receive messages sent via regular text, ensuring that a court-ordered communication channel remains functional even if the other party initially resists adoption.

III. Core Features for Family Court

A. Court-Admissible Documentation

All communication is recorded in tamper-evident, timestamped logs. In accordance with judicial requirements for record-keeping, all co-parenting history is retained for a minimum of seven years, ensuring data persistence even if a party's subscription is inactive or cancelled. Records may be exported and printed for use in family court proceedings, mediation, or consultation with legal counsel.

B. Certificate of Authenticity

Exported records include a Certificate of Authenticity that provides official verification the documentation is unaltered and accurately reflects the complete communication record. Each certificate includes a unique verification code that allows judicial officers to instantly verify the integrity of the digital or printed record through a standard web browser.

BestInterest records are generated and maintained in the regular course of business and are designed to meet the standards for business record admissibility under Federal Rule of Evidence 803(6) and equivalent state evidentiary rules.

C. Court Order Compliance Checking

Parties may upload their court order directly into the BestInterest application. Once uploaded, Tone Guardian reviews outgoing messages not only for general tone but for compliance with the specific terms of that order — flagging communication that may violate restrictions on topic, language, or conduct as defined by the court. This creates a direct, automated link between the court's written order and the day-to-day communication behavior of the parties, reinforcing the terms of the order at the point of every message sent rather than relying solely on the parties' good faith or the threat of future contempt proceedings.

D. Judicial Conflict Analytics & Communication Health Reports

BestInterest provides an objective, data-driven "health meter" of the co-parenting relationship, moving beyond anecdotal claims of "improvement" or "conflict". These reports provide judicial officers with a quantitative summary of communication trends during a specified period. Key metrics include:

- **Conflict De-escalation Rate:** Tracks how often a sender accepts the **Tone Guardian®** AI-suggested revisions versus sending the original, higher-conflict draft.

- **Intervention Volume:** A count of messages flagged or filtered by **Message Shield®**, providing a clear metric of "attempted conflict" versus "successful de-escalation".
- **Topic Compliance Tracking:** Categorizes communication to ensure parties are adhering to court-ordered topic restrictions (e.g., child-focused vs. personal attacks).
- **Engagement Metrics:** Documentation of response times and message frequency to identify "bombardment" patterns or communication "stonewalling".

F. Parenting Schedule and Custody Calendar

Shared custody calendars allow parties to track parenting schedules, submit and respond to schedule change requests, and maintain a transparent record of parenting time modifications. All schedule activity is documented with timestamps.

G. Free Core Tier and Flexible Subscription Model

BestInterest's core co-parenting tools — messaging, shared calendar, and expense tracking — are available to both parties at no cost. One party may subscribe for enhanced AI features (Message Shield®, Tone Guardian®, video calling features) without requiring the other to pay. The court's order does not create a mandatory or escalating financial obligation for families. For parties under financial hardship, the full documentation and communication record remains accessible on the free tier.

IV. Comparison with Other Court-Ordered Interventions

Feature	BestInterest	OurFamilyWizard	TalkingParents	Parenting Coordinator
Court-Admissible Records	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Proactive AI Moderation	Yes	No	No	No
Incoming Message Filtering	Yes	No	No	No
Outgoing Message Review	Automatic	Manual	No	No
Court Order Compliance Checking	Yes	No	No	No
Call Recording & Transcription	Yes	Yes	No	No
Certificate of Authenticity	Included	Add-On	Add-On	No
Free Tier Available	Yes	No	No	N/A
One Party Can Subscribe; Other Uses Free	Yes	No	No	N/A
Compliance with Court Orders	Automatic	No	No	Depends
Annual Cost — Subscribing Party	\$80–190	\$150–240	\$100–150	\$3K–\$10K+
Total Family Minimum Annual Cost	\$0	\$300–480	\$200–300	N/A

Note on cost: OurFamilyWizard and TalkingParents require both parties to maintain separate paid accounts — meaning a court order to use these platforms compels both parties into a recurring subscription. BestInterest’s core features are free for both parties; only the subscribing party pays (\$100–200/year) for enhanced AI capabilities. A parenting coordinator costs \$3,000–\$10,000+ annually by comparison.

V. Expert Endorsement and User Testimonials

Dr. Ramani Durvasula, Ph.D.

Clinical psychologist, professor emerita of psychology at California State University, Los Angeles, and widely recognized authority on narcissistic abuse and high-conflict relationships. Dr. Durvasula is a frequent expert resource for legal and mental health professionals working with survivors of domestic violence and high-conflict custody disputes.

“As a psychologist specializing in high-conflict relationships, I’ve seen firsthand the devastating impact toxic communication can have on families. BestInterest is a valuable tool for anyone navigating these challenges.”

— **Dr. Ramani Durvasula, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist**

User Testimonials

“I am a psychiatrist with 30 years of experience. I was in a high-conflict divorce — post-separation abuse was hell. Despite being fully aware as a clinician, I could not detach myself. Then I heard about BestInterest. I have no words to share that your app ended my trauma bonding with my ex. I am finally free from the emotional thread that tied me to him. I want to share this app with everyone divorcing or co-parenting with a narcissist.” - Mother

“Since using BestInterest I was finally able to enter the courtroom with confidence — something I had been unsuccessful at for three years, through two private lawyers and a court-appointed attorney. I have saved thousands of hours trying to craft responses, and the guidance given instantly increased my confidence in my actions to protect my son's best interests.” - Mother

“I work with individuals in co-parenting situations. Many of my clients are suffering the fallout of coercive control and post-separation abuse. BestInterest creates a buffer to avoid retraumatizing them while facilitating clean co-parenting communication. It can be a good bridge for families where one party is still activated and needs to learn how to moderate their communication.” - Therapist

VI. Privacy and Data Security

BestInterest is designed with privacy and data security as foundational requirements. For judicial officers considering ordering its use, the following safeguards are in place:

- All data is encrypted in transit and at rest
- Communication records are stored on secure servers and are tamper-evident
- Individual communication data is not shared with 3rd parties without explicit consent
- Users retain full control of their own records and may share them with their attorney, the court, or a mediator at their sole discretion
- Certificate of Authenticity provides an unbroken chain of custody for exported records
- BestInterest does not alter, delete, or modify any communication record once created
- Users maintain ultimate agency: while the AI provides moderation and filtering for de-escalation, users are responsible for the final content sent.

Appendix A: Suggested Court Order Language

The following language is provided for judicial reference. Counsel and judicial officers should adapt as appropriate for the specific facts and jurisdiction. BestInterest is available for consultation on technical implementation of any court order.

Option 1 — Mutual Use (Both Parties)

Both parties are ordered to conduct all co-parenting communication exclusively through the BestInterest application (bestinterest.app) for a period of [X months / until further order of the court]. Communication conducted outside the BestInterest platform, except in the event of a genuine emergency involving the minor child(ren), shall constitute a violation of this order.

Option 2 — Single-Party Use

[Party Name] is ordered to activate Solo Mode on the BestInterest application (bestinterest.app) within [X] days of the entry of this order and to provide the resulting dedicated BestInterest phone number to [Other Party Name] as the exclusive means of co-parenting communication. [Other Party Name] is not required to download the BestInterest application or take any other action; [Other Party Name] shall direct all co-parenting communications to the BestInterest number provided by [Party Name].

Option 3 — Documentation Requirement Only

Both parties are ordered to maintain court-admissible records of all co-parenting communication through the BestInterest application. In any future proceeding related to the minor child(ren), either party may submit BestInterest communication records, accompanied by the Certificate of Authenticity, as evidence of co-parenting communication.

For technical questions regarding implementation, or to request a demonstration for judicial or bar association purposes please contact: legal@bestinterest.app

References

- Heard, G., Smyth, B., & Higgins, D. (2023). Risks and benefits of post-separation parenting apps: perceptions of family law professionals. *Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law*, 45(2).
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