Child-Oriented Mobility, Parenting and Safety Assessment (COMPASS)

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COMPASS Overview

The following checklist translates empirical domains used in relocation research into a structured assessment tool. The items are derived from measures used in relocation studies examining psychological adjustment, relational functioning, behavioural outcomes, financial conditions, educational outcomes, and physical health.

Professionals completing the checklist should base responses on available information from interviews, records, observations, and collateral sources. Responses should reflect professional judgment regarding the likely impact of relocation or residential mobility on the child.

Response options:

1 = Strongly agree
2 = Agree
3 = Neutral
4 = Disagree
5 = Strongly disagree

Parent-Child Relationship Continuity	**Rating**
1. The child has a strong and stable relationship with the nonmoving parent.	1 2 3 4 5
2. The proposed move would significantly reduce routine contact with the nonmoving parent.	1 2 3 4 5
3. Meaningful contact between the child and the nonmoving parent would remain feasible after the move.	1 2 3 4 5
4. The child's relationship with the relocating parent would improve following the move.	1 2 3 4 5
5. The proposed relocation is likely to strengthen the child's sense of support from caregivers.	1 2 3 4 5
Child Psychological and Emotional Adjustment	**Rating**
6. The child demonstrates emotional stability in response to family transitions.	1 2 3 4 5
7. The child has shown resilience during previous changes or relocations.	1 2 3 4 5
8. The proposed move is likely to reduce stress or emotional strain for the child.	1 2 3 4 5

9. The move is likely to increase emotional stress or adjustment difficulties.	1 2 3 4 5
10. The child appears capable of adapting to changes associated with relocation.	1 2 3 4 5
Interparental Conflict and Safety Context	**Rating**
11. Interparental conflict currently affects the child's well-being.	1 2 3 4 5
12. The proposed relocation would reduce the child's exposure to conflict.	1 2 3 4 5
13. The relocation may intensify parental conflict.	1 2 3 4 5
14. Safety concerns exist within the current living environment.	1 2 3 4 5
15. Relocation would likely improve the child's safety or stability.	1 2 3 4 5
Educational and Developmental Environment	**Rating**
16. The child is currently well integrated into their school environment.	1 2 3 4 5
17. The proposed move would improve educational opportunities.	1 2 3 4 5
18. The move would significantly disrupt schooling or academic progress.	1 2 3 4 5
19. The timing of the move aligns with natural educational transitions (e.g., school change).	1 2 3 4 5
20. Educational continuity can be maintained following relocation.	1 2 3 4 5
Social Relationships and Support Networks	**Rating**
21. The child has strong friendships and peer connections in the current community.	1 2 3 4 5
22. The proposed move would disrupt important peer relationships.	1 2 3 4 5
23. The new location would provide access to supportive social networks.	1 2 3 4 5
24. The child has demonstrated ability to form new friendships after moves.	1 2 3 4 5
Economic and Environmental Stability	**Rating**
25. The relocation would improve housing stability for the child.	1 2 3 4 5
26. The move would improve economic conditions or employment opportunities for caregivers.	1 2 3 4 5
27. The relocation would create financial strain for the family.	1 2 3 4 5
28. The proposed environment provides access to community resources and services.	1 2 3 4 5
Travel and Logistical Feasibility	**Rating**
29. Travel arrangements between households are practical and sustainable.	1 2 3 4 5
30. The cost of travel would significantly burden either parent.	1 2 3 4 5

31. Travel demands would be manageable for the child's age and schedule.	1 2 3 4 5
32. Technology and communication could support ongoing contact across distance.	1 2 3 4 5
Child Voice	**Rating**
33. The child has expressed positive views about the proposed relocation.	1 2 3 4 5
34. The child's views appear developmentally informed.	1 2 3 4 5
35. The child's preferences have been considered in decision-making.	1 2 3 4 5

Overall assessment of relocation impact

☐ Likely beneficial overall
☐ Mixed benefits and risks
☐ Significant concerns about relocation

Key factors influencing this assessment