The Effects of Child Custody Disputes on Children

Katelynn
General Facts:

- behavioral problems
- restrictive gate keeping
- 7% more likely to be depressed
- choose one parent over the other
Infants:

- regression in development
- sleep disturbances
- being extremely clingy
- general crankiness
3 to 5 year olds:

- regression
- guilt
- fear of abandonment
- greater crankiness
6 to 8 year olds:

- pervasive sadness
- loyalty conflicts
- impulsiveness
9 to 12 year olds:

- fear of loneliness
- intense anger at parents
- physical complaints
- shame
Adolescents:

- isolation
- complicated/stressed relationships
- chronic fatigue

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

A disease characterized by neurological symptoms, muscle pain with intense physical or mental exhaustion, relapses, and specific cognitive dysfunction.

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Major Negative Effects:

- Depression
- Multiple Personalities (occurs when the child lives with both parents)
- Gatekeeping
Depression:
a condition of general emotional dejection and withdrawal, sadness greater and more prolonged than normal
Multiple Personalities:

Children can develop different attitudes and behaviors due to living in two different environments.
Gatekeeping:

when one parent derogates the other, abuses the child mentally or physically, limits contact with the other or tries to control the child at the other parent’s house

Effect:
-deteriorating parent-child relationship
Key Terms:

Extreme Emotional Trauma: a damage to the psyche occurring due to a severely distressing event

Stress: a state of emotional or mental strain or tension as a result of a very demanding or adverse situation

Triangulation: altering behavior towards one parent in hopes of pleasing the other

Athazagoraphobia: the fear of being forgotten, ignored or abandoned
Short Answer Questions:

1. Describe two ways child custody battles/divorce can cause the parent-child relationship to deteriorate.

1. Elaborate on how joint custody can cause children to develop multiple personalities.