



PROGRAM MATERIALS

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Child Custody 101: Determining Custody and Parenting Time for Modern Families

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Child Custody 101

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHILD CUSTODY LAW FOR ATTORNEYS



DISCLAIMER

This presentation contains general information and does not constitute legal advice.



Be sure to direct specific questions about your own situation to an attorney.



Family Law Expert Bari Z. Weinberger

- Managing Partner at Weinberger Divorce & Family Law Group.
- Certified Matrimonial Attorney.
- Author.
- Frequent Keynote Speaker.
- As seen in various media: Wall Street Journal, Smart Money, Forbes, CBS, ABC, Access Hollywood, News Channel 12, Huffington Post, The Star Ledger, Divorce Magazine.
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“Bari was wonderful!! She always explained the law thoroughly. I understood every part of the process. She was supportive, smart & professional. Everyone said “You need a shark”, I said “I need a stingray”. Bari has an amazing combination of elegance & intelligence & can fight the fight...”

Tara M.



Sections

- The Best Interests of the Child Standard
- Legal Custody vs. Physical Custody
- Court Procedures
- Modifying Custody Orders
- Enforcing Child Custody Orders

THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD STANDARD

CHILD CUSTODY 101: BEST INTERESTS OF
THE CHILD



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The Best Interests of the Child

- States govern over their own child custody laws, but there are overarching similarities between states.
- Notably, *all* states consider the best interests of the child to be paramount when making custody decisions between parents.



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Child Custody Statutes

- While all states apply a “best interests of the child” standard, they do not all agree on exactly what that means.
- State courts may interpret this standard differently and apply different factors.
- Some differences:
 - Whether joint custody is an option or a preference and exactly what “joint custody” means.
 - Whether states consider a child’s wishes for where they live or spend time, and at what age.
 - What kind of terminology the state uses.
- Always read your state statute for the exact meaning of “best interests.”



Child custody law is gender neutral

All states have replaced earlier laws which favored mothers in “tender years” cases (up to about age 6) with laws that are **gender-neutral**, regardless of a child’s age.



How Do Courts Decide Custody?



**Agreements Between
Parents**

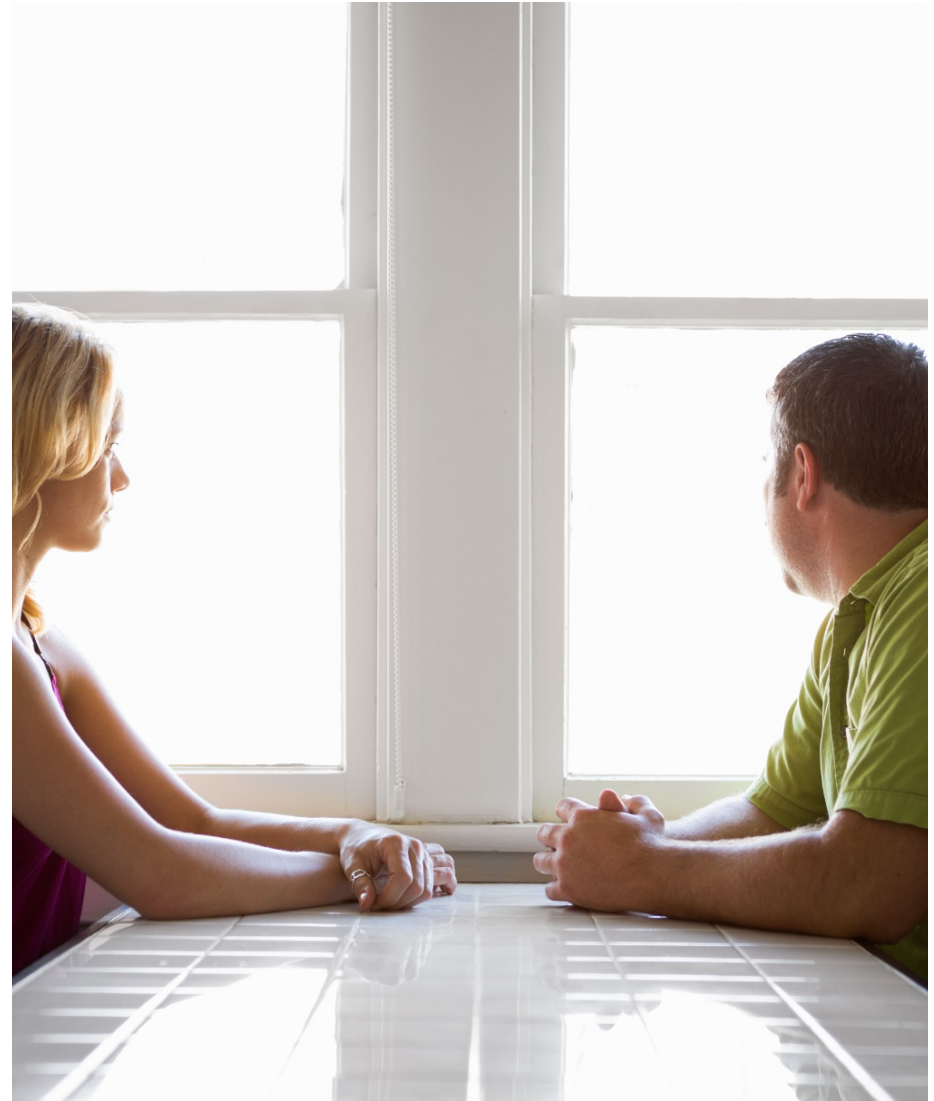


Custody Hearings



AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PARENTS

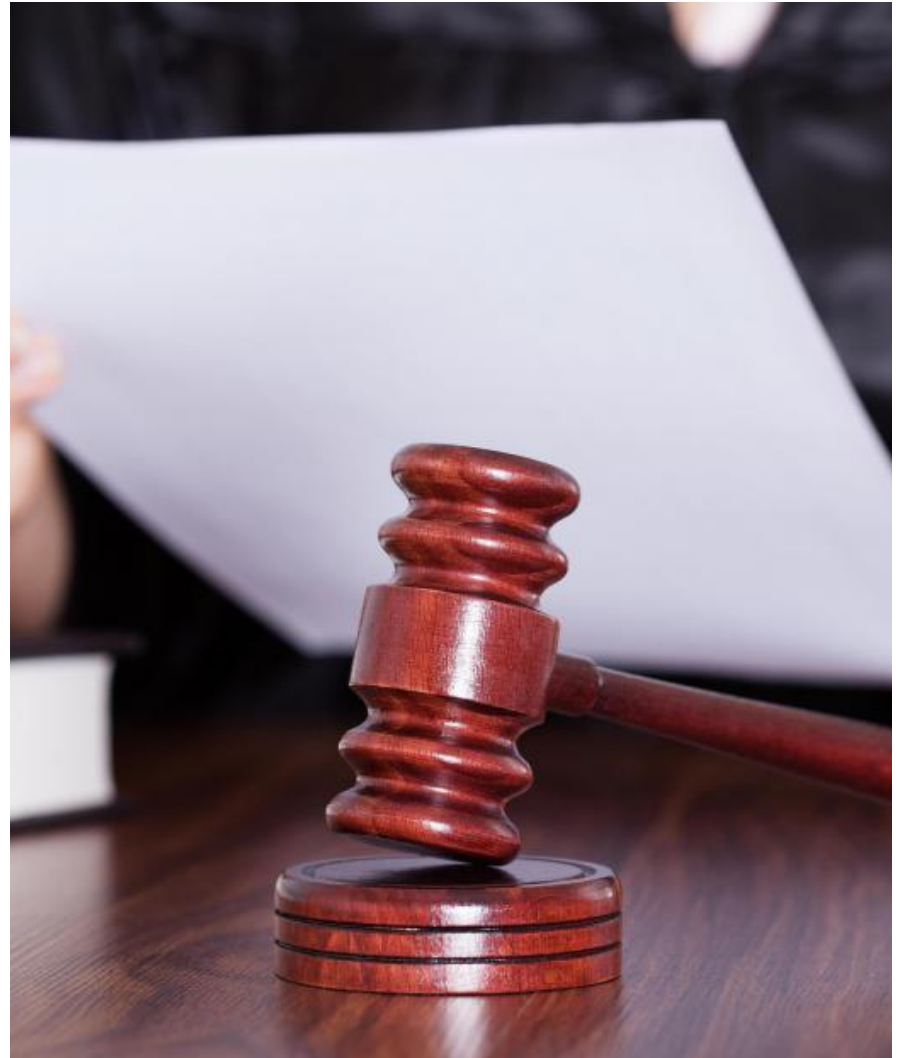
- Courts prefer parents to make their own agreements about how to share parental responsibilities and parenting time, whenever possible.
- Ideally, parents work together to develop a schedule that fits the needs of everyone in the restructured family.
- Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes, such as private mediation and collaborative law are especially helpful for resolving parenting disputes. We will discuss ADR in more detail later.





COURT HEARINGS

- If parents cannot agree on a parenting plan that meets the child's best interests, the court will hold a full hearing on the issue and order a plan.
- Judges rely heavily on child custody evaluators to provide professional opinions.
- Attorneys need to advise clients that costs in contested custody cases can quickly run out of control and that results are never guaranteed.





Common Best Interests Categories



- Physical Safety
- Emotional Needs
- Status Quo
- Practical Considerations
- Preference of the Child
- Co-parenting Abilities or Parental Conduct
- Any Other Relevant Factors



PHYSICAL SAFETY

Examples may include:

- History of domestic violence,
- Risk of spousal abuse or child abuse or neglect,
- Risk of kidnapping,
- Parental fitness—circumstances such as drug abuse that threatens the child's safety,
- Risks posed by other household members.





EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL NEEDS

Examples may include:

- The interaction and relationship of the child with parents and siblings,
- Relationships with other significant family members,
- Social needs outside the family,
- Religious needs,
- Availability of quality education,
- Frequent or meaningful contact with each parent (sometimes specified as presumptively in the child's best emotional interest).





THE STATUS QUO

Courts generally try to duplicate the child's pre-divorce environment as closely as possible, particularly with temporary orders during the divorce.

Factors may include:

- the extent and quality of the time each parent has spent with the child prior to or subsequent to the separation,
- The length of time the child has lived in a stable, satisfactory environment and the desirability of maintaining continuity, including continuity of education and social support systems.





PRACTICAL CONCERNS

Sometimes what is realistically possible ends up being more important than what is ideal. This can include things like:

- the capability and desire of each parent to meet the child's needs,
- the stability of the home environment offered,
- the geographical proximity of the parents' homes,
- each parents' employment responsibilities,
- the age and number of children in each parent's household.





PREFERENCE OF THE CHILD

Most, but not all, states consider the preference of the child after a certain age. This may be stated as:

- Suitable age, maturity, or capacity to form a preference, or to make an intelligent decision (an individual standard, but usually interpreted to be about 12 years old).
- A specific age (e.g., Texas specifies age 12).

A few states, Georgia and Illinois, for example, specify that children 14 and older may choose which parent to live with, subject to overrule if a judge determines that the child's decision is not in his or her best interests.





CO-PARENTING ABILITIES OR PARENTAL CONDUCT

- Parental cooperation and communication is especially important in joint custody and equal parenting time situations.
- If the parents cannot co-parent effectively, the parent who is best able and most willing to facilitate a good relationship between the child and the other parent will generally have the edge.
- Some states also specifically list conduct that will weigh against a parent, such as:
 - Use of coercion or duress in obtaining an agreement regarding legal decision-making or parenting time,
 - Conviction for false reporting of child abuse or neglect,
 - Intentionally misleading the court to cause an unnecessary delay, to increase the cost of litigation, or to persuade the court to make a favorable custody decision for that parent.



Check your state custody factors.
EXAMPLE STATUTE: NEW JERSEY CUSTODY FACTORS
(NJSA 9:2-4)

- The parents' ability to agree, communicate and cooperate in matters relating to the child;
- The parents' willingness to accept custody and any history of unwillingness to allow parenting time not based on substantiated abuse;
- The interaction and relationship of the child with parents and siblings;
- The history of domestic violence, if any;
- The safety of the child and the safety of either parent from physical abuse by the other parent;
- The preference of a child of sufficient age and capacity to reason so as to form an intelligent decision;
- The needs of the child;
- The stability of the home environment offered;
- The quality and continuity of the child's education;
- The fitness of the parents;
- The geographical proximity of the parents' homes;
- The extent and quality of the time spent with the child prior to or subsequent to the separation;
- The parents' employment responsibilities;
- And the age and number of the children.

LEGAL CUSTODY VS. PHYSICAL CUSTODY

CHILD CUSTODY 101: LEGAL VS. PHYSICAL CUSTODY



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Legal Custody

Legal custody governs a parent's authority to participate in major decisions regarding a child's health, education, and general welfare.

- Legal custody includes schooling, religious upbringing, and medical treatment beyond routine or emergency care.
- Can be sole or joint, but joint legal custody is becoming the default in an increasing number of states, including New Jersey, unless one parent is absent or abusive.
- Joint legal custody usually means parents make all decisions together but in some cases, one parent will have authority over certain aspects and the other will have authority over other aspects.
- Day to day decisions are generally made by whichever parent a child is physically with at any given time.



Physical Custody

Physical custody governs which parent a child lives with.



- One parent can have sole physical custody or parents can share custody.
- Sole physical custody means that the child spends the majority of the time with one parent.
- It usually allows for liberal visitation, or liberal “parenting time” for the other parent.



CHANGES IN TERMINOLOGY

Traditional terms have given way in many states to terms considered more egalitarian and more descriptive.

Examples:

- Some states now use terms like “parent of primary residence” and “parent of alternate residence” instead of “custodial parent” or “noncustodial parent.”
- Colorado now uses the term “parental responsibility” instead of legal custody.
- Vermont refers to custody as “parental rights and responsibilities.”
- Washington talks about “custody or parenting plans,” rather than using the term visitation.
- New Jersey generally uses “parenting time” instead of visitation.

A parent should never be seen as simply a
“visitor” in the child's life.



COMMON CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

Joint Legal Custody: Shared decision-making with one primary residential parent (most common)

Shared Legal and Physical Custody: Equal or nearly equal parenting time with equal responsibilities (also common, but requires above-average co-parenting skills)

Sole Legal and Physical Custody. Child resides with one parent, and that parent also has sole decision-making authority (unusual unless one parent is absent or abusive)



Joint Legal Custody with a Parent of Primary Residence

- Parents share decision-making authority for children's health, education and general welfare, while the parent a child is with at any given time makes day-to-day decisions in the child's best interests and notifies the other parent as appropriate.
- The child usually resides with one parent the majority of the time while the other parent has a more traditional visitation schedule.
- Even when the division of physical custody approaches 50/50, it will not usually be considered "shared physical and legal custody" unless the parents also share parenting responsibilities equally.



Shared Legal and Physical Custody

- Generally refers to a parenting arrangement where children spend equal or nearly equal time with each parent and parents share day-to-day parental responsibilities equally.
- This has been growing in popularity but is still somewhat less common than joint custody with a primary parent, as it requires a high degree of communication and collaboration.
- Scheduling options include alternating weeks or splitting weeks—sometimes alternating one day and night of each week to equalize the time.
- No bright line distinguishes true shared custody from joint legal custody with a primary parent, but in some states the distinction can be important when calculating child support or when one party wants to move away with a child (we will talk more about move-away cases later).



Sole Legal and Physical Custody

- The residential custodial parent is solely responsible for all major decisions regarding the child's health, education, and welfare, as well as all day-to-day decisions.
- Some parents just agree to this, but it is commonly instituted after a judge has determined that one parent is absent or unfit due to a history of child abuse or neglect, drug addiction, or a similar issue.
- In the majority of such cases the non-custodial parent will still have visitation with the child, but visitation may be supervised or restricted to ensure the child's safety.





What is Typical State by State?

- Equal time sharing is on the rise, and in many states, it is becoming the default position.
- In some states, mothers are still granted primary or sole residential custody somewhat more often than fathers, possibly because:
 - More mothers are primary caretakers and courts generally favor keeping the status quo,
 - More mothers ask for primary custody, and
 - Some judges may still apply an unconscious prejudice in favor of a mother.





Restrictions on Parenting Time

- Courts may impose temporary safeguards, such as requiring a third party to supervise visitation until the parent has satisfied certain requirements—completing a drug rehabilitation program, for example.
- In the most extreme situations, a parent may be prohibited from exercising visitation entirely.
- An award to one parent of sole custody is not the same thing as a termination of the other parent's rights; the other parent might still be obligated to pay child support.
- The parent also retains the right to return to court at a later time and request a modification of the custody and visitation order.



Losing Parental Rights

- In cases of imminent risk of physical or psychological harm to a child due to parental abuse or abandonment, child protective services may make a temporary out-of-home placement for a child's safety.
- A temporary custody arrangement ordinarily becomes permanent only if parental rights are terminated through a court process.
- The grounds for involuntary termination of parental rights are specific circumstances under which the child cannot be returned safely home because of risk of harm by the parent or the inability of the parent to provide for the child's basic needs.
- Statutory grounds for determining parental unfitness include: severe or chronic abuse or neglect; sexual abuse; abandonment of the child; and long-term drug or alcohol abuse.
- Each State is responsible for establishing its own statutory grounds, and these vary by State.

COURT PROCEDURES IN CHILD CUSTODY CASES

CHILD CUSTODY 101: COURT PROCEDURES



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CUSTODY CAN BE PART OF A DIVORCE CASE OR A SEPARATE NONDISSOLUTION MATTER



- Even if the parents are in full agreement, they will need to file paperwork in court to get binding custody orders.
- The parties will also need at least a basic time-share agreement before the court can issue child support orders.
- Your state and local rules will set out the requirements for court filings and any timing considerations.
- Be sure to ascertain that the court has **jurisdiction** and that the **venue** is appropriate.
- Courts consider the stability of children as a very high priority, so the custody part of a divorce case may be expedited over the resolution of other matters.



THE COURT MUST HAVE JURISDICTION



- All states have adopted some version of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA)—consult your state statute for specific requirements.
- The purpose of the UCCJEA is to resolve child custody issues in a child's home state, according to a common definition of "home state."
- The home state is generally where the child has lived for at least the six months immediately preceding the custody case.
- If the child has not lived in any state for at least six months, jurisdiction is given to the state that has the most direct relationship with the child, because:
 - The child and at least one parent have strong connections to the state, and
 - The state possesses the most information about the child's care, protection, education and personal relationships
- Once a court assumes jurisdiction, no other state can make custody decisions unless and until the first state relinquishes jurisdiction, or jurisdiction is successfully challenged.



TEMPORARY EMERGENCY JURISDICTION



A court can also exercise temporary jurisdiction over a child in limited circumstances, such as:

- The child has been abandoned in the state, or
- The child's parent is in the state temporarily due to a legitimate fear of domestic violence or child abuse.





PENDENTE LITE MOTIONS IN FAMILY COURT



- *Pendente lite* motions are requests for temporary relief during the pendency of a case.
- Temporary child custody orders are generally based on maintaining the status quo that existed before commencement of any legal action related to custody.
- Many parents are able to reach a temporary separation agreement that covers parenting time and temporary support without going to court.
- If the parents cannot agree, or if the other parent is not willing to provide your client with financial support that maintains the status quo, then you may need to file a motion.



COURT-MANDATED MEDIATION AND OTHER COURT REQUIREMENTS



- Most states have the power to order parents to participate in court-sponsored custody mediation and many courts routinely order this under most circumstances.
- States will differ in specifics of the program and in requirements for court-approved mediators.
- Domestic violence or abuse and other circumstances that amount to good cause will generally release parents from required mediation.
- Some states also require parents with custody disputes to attend parenting classes (separately rather than together).
- Parents are required to submit proposed parenting schedules to the court.



Parenting Plans: Things to Include

Parenting plans become part of a court order. Your state may have specific requirements for parenting plans in statutes or court rules.

At a minimum, a plan should:

- Designate the child's primary residence,
- Describe legal custody,
- Include a specific time-sharing schedule, and
- Include provisions for dividing holidays, birthdays, and vacations.



Parenting Plans: Additional Items to Address

- Access to medical records, report cards, teachers, etc.,
- First rights of babysitting,
- Responsibility for specific expenses/sharing unanticipated expenses,
- Responsibility for transportation of children,
- Designated parent to take off work if a child is sick,
- Means of addressing potential schedule changes or modification of plan as children get older,
- Agreement to attend mediation to resolve future conflicts, and
- Any other agreements parents wish to include that are enforceable and in a child's best interests.





CHILD CUSTODY INVESTIGATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

*Expert opinions in custody
cases.*



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Custody Investigations & Evaluations

COURT ORDERED INVESTIGATIONS

- Family court judges can order social investigations and “best interests of the child” reports,
- May include home inspections,
- May also include psychological, psychiatric, parental functioning assessments or mental health evaluations if necessary.

PRIVATE CUSTODY EVALUATIONS

- Parents can jointly hire a mental health expert to conduct the investigation and prepare the report, or
- Parents can each hire their own expert,
- Child custody evaluators must be neutral and follow uniform standards, regardless of who hires them.



USING A CHILD SPECIALIST

- A licensed mental health professional with training in child development and family systems can review proposed parenting plans in light of the best interests of the children.
- Choose someone with experience working with parenting issues common to family reorganization.
- The more qualified your expert is, the more their opinion will stand up in court if need be.
- Experts must be neutral but can still have biases, so be sure to be familiar with the expert's prior opinions.





CHALLENGING THE OTHER PARTY'S EXPERT



- If the other parent presents an eminently qualified expert, it's generally best to stipulate to qualifications.
- Familiarize yourself with the testing and other methods employed by the expert.
- Find out from your client how long they met with the expert and what occurred in the meeting.
- At a hearing or trial you can use leading questions to challenge the expert's methods in general as well as their appropriateness in the specific case.



CHILD INTERVIEWS

- If there is a child specialist, this person will interview a child separately if the child is old enough.
- A guardian ad litem may also interview the child and report to the court, or a judge may interview the child in chambers.
- In some states a court interview is required if the child is a certain age (e.g., age 12 in Texas) and a party, amicus attorney, or attorney ad litem requests it (Texas Family Code Sec. 153.009(a)).





Role of an Attorney for a Child

- A judge can appoint an attorney for a child in any case where custody is an issue, either on application of a party or on the court's own motion.
- This is not common, but may be appropriate when a judge determines that the child's best interests are not being sufficiently protected by the attorneys for the parents in the case.
- The attorney is the direct advocate for the child.
- Parents are generally required to pay for the fees and costs of the child's attorney.





Role of a *Guardian ad Litem* (GAL)

- Role and requirements for GALS may differ from state to state.
- In general, a GAL must be someone with knowledge and experience in child development, particularly in the context of high conflict divorcing families.
- A GAL is appointed by a court to conduct an investigation and submit a report about custody arrangements that would meet the best interests of a child.





PRIVATE CUSTODY MEDIATION

AN OUT-OF-COURT ALTERNATIVE

- Mediation can reduce conflict and decrease the stress on everyone in the family.
- Mediation is confidential and can keep private family matters out of the public record.
- Private mediation offers many additional potential benefits, including increased control over both the process and results.
- Private mediation can be instituted prior to filing a court case.





PRIVATE CUSTODY MEDIATION

AN ADR PROCESS THAT PROTECTS CHILDREN

- Watching parents argue is hard on children and often makes them feel pressured to choose sides, potentially causing emotional turmoil.
- Mediation helps parents preserve or improve upon the cooperative relationship essential to co-parenting.
- Parents who reach agreements on parenting matters in mediation often learn valuable skills that can help them resolve future disagreements.
- Even if serious parenting disagreements arise in the future, parents can often resolve them by returning to mediation.





COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE LAW

AN ADR PROCESS WITH INCREASED LEGAL SUPPORT

- Parties sign a *Collaborative Law Participation Agreement*, promising in writing to pursue only an out of court settlement.
- Unlike mediation, there is no neutral party overseeing the collaborative law process.
- Attorneys and clients all meet together to negotiate solutions.
- The written agreement includes promises to communicate honestly and completely and to negotiate in good faith toward a full resolution of all issues.
- Experts are retained jointly as members of the *collaborative team*.
- If parties fail to reach agreement through the collaborative process, they must retain new attorneys before proceeding to court.

POST JUDGMENT MODIFICATIONS IN PARENTING ORDERS

CHILD CUSTODY 101: POST-JUDGMENT MODIFICATIONS



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POST JUDGMENT MODIFICATIONS

What if things change after final custody orders?



Child custody orders can be modified until children are emancipated.

The exact age and circumstances of emancipation will be determined by state law.

All modifications require a substantial change in circumstances.

A modification might be appropriate if a parent is seeking:

- *A change in the primary residential parent*
- *A change from sole custody to joint custody or vice versa*
- *A significant decrease or increase in parenting time*

Courts will generally expect parents to try to work things out through negotiation or mediation before going to court.



POST JUDGMENT MODIFICATIONS

What is a Substantial Change?

POTENTIAL TRIGGERING EVENTS:

- Change in parental fitness,
- Permanent change in the child's school or extracurricular schedule,
- Interference by one parent with the other parent's time,
- Ongoing contentious relationship between parents affecting the child,
- One parent's relocation out of the area.

Courts considering a request for a major change will require proof that the change is necessary to further the child's best interests.





MOVE AWAY CASES

Custodial vs. Noncustodial Parents

- Parents of minor children are generally limited from moving away with a child without a court order or agreement with the other parent.
- A state statute may specify what kind of move requires approval; e.g. out of state, or a certain number of miles away.
- A well-drafted parenting agreement will also address parental moves.
- A big issue in move-away cases has been whether or not a “custodial” parent, or parent with primary residential custody, is to be given more leeway in moving than a “noncustodial” or “alternate” parent, if the parents have joint legal custody.





MOVE AWAY CASES

An Evolving Picture

- For awhile, the pendulum was swinging in favor of the custodial parent.
- In New Jersey, for example, the 2001 Supreme Court case of *Baures v. Lewis* established that a parent with sole or primary custody could move if the parent had a “good faith” reason and the move would not be harmful to the child.
- A “good faith” reason was pretty much any reason not meant to interfere with the other parent’s relationship with the child.
- The *Baures* court cited social science research supporting the proposition that “what is good for the custodial parent is good for the child.”





MOVE AWAY CASES

Trend of the Law

- In 2017, the New Jersey Court reversed itself, holding in *Bisbing v. Bisbing*, (166 A. 3d 1155 - NJ: Supreme Court 2017) that if the parents have either joint legal OR shared physical custody (or both), the move-away parent must demonstrate that it would be in the child's best interests for the court to allow the move.
- The *Bisbing* Court noted that the majority of states, either by statute or by case law, currently impose a best-interests test in all move-away cases, rather than a preference or presumption in favor of a parent with primary residential custody.
- Some states however, have chosen not to entirely eliminate the presumption in favor of a sole or primary custodian.
- Arkansas, for example, recently decided to retain a presumption in favor of a parent seeking to relocate *if* that parent is not simply labeled as the primary custodian, but also spends significantly more time with the child than the other parent, and has "shouldered the vast majority of the responsibility of caring for and making decisions on behalf of the child." (*Cooper v. Kalkwarf*, 532 SW 3d 58 - Ark: Supreme Court 2017).



MOVE AWAY CASES

Acceptable Alternate Parenting Plans

PARENT'S WISHING TO MOVE AWAY WITH A CHILD MUST PROPOSE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE PARENTING PLANS:

- If the move is approved, the child will typically be with the non-custodial parent during school holidays such as winter and spring break and for the majority of the summer break.
- Plans must specify a reasonable method of transportation for the child and allocate the costs of such transportation appropriately between the parents.
- Plans must also specify additional methods of contact, such as unlimited telephone calls, e-mail or text messaging, and SKYPE.
- Plans must actually work for the non-custodial parent.



MOVE AWAY CASES

Opposing a Move Away

- A parent opposing a move-away must demonstrate that the move is not in the best interests of the child.
- If there is a presumption in favor of the other parent, then the opposing parent may need to show that the move will actually be harmful to the child.
- Either way, the focus will be on:
 - The overall quality of life available to the child in each location, and
 - The closeness of the opposing parent's relationship with the child and the adverse effects of the move on that parent's ability to fulfill current roles.



ENFORCING CHILD CUSTODY ORDERS AND AGREEMENTS

CHILD CUSTODY 101: ENFORCING CHILD
CUSTODY



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Enforcing Custody Orders

INTERFERENCE WITH CUSTODY OR PARENTING TIME

- Parents have a legal duty to comply with court-ordered parenting plans.
- This duty generally includes encouraging a child to spend time with the other parent.
- Parents must also refrain from making negative comments about the other parent.





Enforcing Custody Orders

WHAT IS INTERFERENCE WITH CUSTODY OR PARENTING TIME?

- Interference with custody or parenting time includes obvious behavior like failing to make a child available during the other parent's scheduled time.
- It also includes more subtle behavior like blocking telephone or email contact, or consistently scheduling a child's appointments and activities during the other parent's time.
- Under some circumstances, taking or concealing one's own child from the other parent can be a crime; in California, Texas, and New York, for example, it could result in felony charges.
- State law will set out the exact elements and the potential defenses.



Potential Defenses to Interference with Child Custody or Parenting Time

Under certain circumstances, interference with custody or parenting time can be justified. Circumstances could include:

- **Imminent danger to the child or the parent.** The parent is usually required to contact child protective services, the police, or the district attorney's office as soon as possible for imminent danger to be a valid defense
- **Domestic violence or abuse.** The parent should bring a custody action in an appropriate court as soon as reasonably possible. Emergency jurisdiction and temporary restraining order processes may be available to establish temporary child custody orders.
- **The child's age.** If the child has reached a certain age or level of maturity, typically about 14 years old, it may be a defense that the child is instigating the actions rather than the parent.
- Non-receipt of timely child support payments is **not** a defense; these are two separate issues.



Enforcing Custody Orders

INTERFERENCE WITH CUSTODY OR PARENTING TIME

If the other parent is consistently violating custody and visitation orders, consider bringing a motion to enforce your client's rights and if appropriate, a motion requesting a change in the parenting arrangements.

Family law judges generally have broad discretion to order whatever remedies are justified under the circumstances.

Parental alienation is increasingly recognized by the courts.



ENFORCING CHILD CUSTODY ORDERS

Penalties for interference



Common remedies for interference with parenting time include:

- Ordering temporary or permanent changes to parenting time, including some or all of the following:
 - Compensatory parenting time for the parent who has lost time,
 - Changes in transportation arrangements for visitation,
 - Changes in the children's pick-up location, or
 - A change in the primary residential parent.
- Ordering the offending parent to pay for education and counseling,
- Imposing fines, court costs and attorney's fees on the offending parent,

Remedies for extreme interference could include:

- Arrest and imprisonment of the interfering parent for contempt of court,
- Criminal charges, including charges of parental kidnapping.



Divorce forever changes the landscape of a child's life. As attorneys, we play such a crucial role in the lives of children and parents because what we do makes a difference. All custody matters are ultimately guided by the thought...

What are we doing to safeguard these children now and in the future?





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