

SENATE FILE NO. SF0117

Shared parenting.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Pearson, Boner, Hutchings and  
Laursen, D and Representative(s) Andrew,  
Angelos, Kelly, Lucas, McCann and Smith, S

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to child custody; providing a presumption  
2 for issuance of an order of shared child custody as  
3 specified; providing definitions; specifying applicability;  
4 and providing for an effective date.

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6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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8 **Section 1.** W.S. 20-2-201(a)(intro), (d) and by  
9 creating a new subsection (j) is amended to read:

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11 **20-2-201. Disposition and maintenance of children in**  
12 **decree or order; access to records.**

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14 (a) Unless otherwise specified by an agreement  
15 between the parties, in granting a divorce, separation or

1 annulment of a marriage or upon the establishment of  
2 paternity pursuant to W.S. 14-2-401 through 14-2-907, the  
3 court ~~may~~ shall make by decree or order any disposition of  
4 the children that ~~appears most expedient and~~ is in the best  
5 interests of the children. In determining the best  
6 interests of the child, the court shall consider, but is  
7 not limited to, the following factors:

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9 (d) The court shall order custody in well defined  
10 terms to promote understanding and compliance by the  
11 parties. ~~In determining custody a court shall not favor or~~  
12 ~~disfavor any form of custody.~~ Custody shall be crafted to  
13 promote the best interests of the children, ~~and may~~  
14 ~~include any combination of joint, shared or sole custody.~~  
15 The court shall enter an order of shared custody unless:

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17 (i) A different form of custody has been agreed  
18 to in writing and signed by both parties;

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20 (ii) One (1) or both parties has been adjudged  
21 by a court to be guilty of a crime involving domestic  
22 violence against the other party;

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1           (iii) One (1) or both parties have been adjudged  
2 by a court to be guilty of cruelty, abuse, neglect or  
3 mistreatment of the children;

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5           (iv) The parties no longer reside within three  
6 hundred (300) miles of each other and a different physical  
7 custody arrangement is the only practical arrangement; or

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9           (v) There is clear and convincing evidence that  
10 a different physical custody arrangement is in the best  
11 interest of the children.

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13           (j) For purposes of this section:

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15           (i) "Joint legal custody" means both parties  
16 share the decision making rights, responsibilities and  
17 authority related to the health, education and welfare of  
18 the children;

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20           (ii) "Joint physical custody" means the children  
21 physically reside with each party for a substantially equal  
22 amount of time each calendar year, with a parental plan  
23 crafted to promote the best interests of the children;

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(iii) "Shared custody" means a child custody arrangement that includes both joint legal custody and joint physical custody.

**Section 2.** This act shall apply to all actions to first establish custody of a child in a proceeding filed on and after July 1, 2025.

**Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

(END)