SYNDICATE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

CHILD CUSTODY / CHILD VISITATION

Syndicate Legal Advisory Services – *Child Custody / Child Visitation*

SYNDICATE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Team of:
Attorneys / Lawyers
Law Clerks
Paralegals
Industry Specialists

TYPES OF CUSTODY ORDERS

May vary state-to-state, but the general legal and physical custody orders nationwide fall into four classes.

LEGAL CUSTODY

Legal custody gives a parent the right to make long-term decisions about the raising of a child, and key aspects of the child's welfare -- including the child's education, medical care, dental care, and religious instruction.

JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY

In most child custody cases; joint legal custody is awarded to both parents based on the best interest of the child. However, if a parent is deemed unfit, is incapable of making decisions about the child's upbringing, has a history of drug abuse, domestic violence, child neglect, then a parent may not be awarded legal custody.

SOLE LEGAL CUSTODY

When a parent has sole legal custody of their child, they can make all decisions regarding issues such as schools, religion, medical care, housing, etc.

PHYSICAL CUSTODY

Physical custody is the primary residence where the child resides. The parent the lives with the child at the primary residence will be considered the custodial parent.

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TYPES OF VISITATION ORDERS

Visitation, also called "time-share," is how the parents will share time with their child, primarily in cases where a parent has the child for less than half the time. Visitation plans can follow a variety of guidelines, such as:

Scheduled visitation – parents and courts must devise a schedule detailing the specific dates and times the child will be with each parent, including holidays, special occasions (birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day), and vacations.

Reasonable (open) visitation – does not have to detail specific dates and times, and instead is open-ended for parents to communicate with each other (works best for parents who are flexible and on amicable terms).

Supervised visitation – for the child's safety, a third party will supervise the child's visitation with their parent (perhaps due to claims that the parent is abusive or if the child and parent need more time to get acquainted with each other).

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