



Florida Best Interests of the Child Definition Act

DATE

LEGISLATOR'S FULL NAME

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR FLORIDA SENATE

DISTRICT OR CAPITOL OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS

SALUTATION: REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR + LAST NAME

Re: Request to sponsor a clear, evidence-based definition of the child's best interests

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support the Florida Best Interests of the Child Definition Act.

Florida law properly makes the child's best interests the primary consideration and lists factors courts must evaluate. This proposal would add a clear, operational definition for decisions that substantially restrict a fit parent's custody, time-sharing, access, communication, or decision-making authority. The definition would protect the child's physical safety, psychological well-being, emotional development, stability, and overall welfare while preserving frequent, continuing, and meaningful relationships with both fit parents.

The measure should require clear and convincing evidence before a substantial restriction is imposed, consideration of less restrictive alternatives, and contemporaneous written findings identifying the evidence and legal basis for the restriction. It should also preserve immediate court action when necessary to protect a child from abuse, neglect, family violence, abandonment, or imminent harm.

A more precise standard would improve consistency, make rulings reviewable, and help families understand how the evidence connects to the outcome. Please consider introducing this proposal and requesting assistance from legislative bill-drafting staff. I would welcome a brief call with you or your staff to discuss it.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUR FULL NAME

YOUR STREET ADDRESS

CITY, FLORIDA, ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS