

PLAIN LANGUAGE VERSION

Oklahoma Equal Parenting & Family Law Reform Act

BILL NO. ____

By: REAL Father Reform

This law makes the following changes to family law in Oklahoma:

1. Equal Parenting Time Presumption

- In custody or visitation cases, the starting point is that both parents should have equal time with their child (about 50/50).
 - This rule can only be changed if there is strong evidence that equal time would harm the child physically, emotionally, or mentally.
 - The court cannot decide based on whether the parent is a mother or father. Only the ability to care for the child matters.
-

2. Equal Rights for Responsible Parents

- A “responsible parent” is a parent who is able and willing to take care of their child.
 - Responsible parents have equal rights to make decisions about their child’s education, health care, religion, and activities.
 - These rights can only be limited if it is clearly necessary to protect the child’s best interests.
-

3. Parental Alienation and Penalties

- Parental alienation is when a parent deliberately tries to damage the child’s relationship with the other parent. Examples include:
 1. Denying court-ordered visitation.
 2. Saying false or hurtful things about the other parent to the child.
 3. Ignoring custody or visitation orders.
- Penalties for parental alienation (three-strike system):
 1. **First Offense:** Class C Misdemeanor – up to \$500 fine, community service, or counseling.
 2. **Second Offense:** Class B Misdemeanor – up to 100 days in jail and up to \$2,000 fine.
 3. **Third Offense:** Felony – up to 3 years in prison and up to \$5,000 fine.
- Courts can also order make-up visitation or other steps to repair the parent-child relationship.

4. Judicial Training

- Judges handling family cases must be trained on equal parenting and parental alienation.
- Training must be part of ongoing judicial education.