



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



Florida Family Rights and Due Process Act

DATE

LEGISLATOR'S FULL NAME

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR FLORIDA SENATE

DISTRICT OR CAPITOL OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS

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Re: Request to sponsor stronger due-process protections in proceedings affecting parent-child rights

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support the Florida Family Rights and Due Process Act.

Orders that materially restrict a parent-child relationship can alter a child's life long before meaningful appellate review is available. This proposal would require a heightened evidentiary safeguard before a court substantially limits the rights of a parent who has not been found unfit. It would also require prompt written findings that identify the material evidence, resolve disputed facts, and explain the legal basis for the ruling.

The legislation should preserve emergency authority when a child faces an immediate safety risk, while requiring prompt notice, an evidentiary hearing, and reviewable findings. For nonemergency final restrictions, the proposed clear-and-convincing standard would reduce the risk that major family consequences rest on marginal, speculative, or internally conflicting proof. A meaningful appellate remedy should be available when required findings are omitted.

This is a due-process and accountability reform, not a limitation on legitimate child protection. Please consider introducing a carefully drafted version of this proposal and consulting the appropriate Florida court and legislative committees. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss it with you or your staff in a brief call.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUR FULL NAME

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Florida Reimbursement of Fees and Costs for Parental Alienating Conduct 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 targeted cost reimbursement after proven interference with a parent-child relationship

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support legislation requiring reimbursement of fees and remedial costs after a court makes specific findings of parental alienating conduct.

Florida courts already have general authority to award attorney's fees in Chapter 61 cases. This proposal would create a focused remedy when a party intentionally and without proper cause engages in conduct that substantially interferes with a child's relationship with the other parent, and that conduct forces the targeted parent to incur expenses to restore the relationship.

After notice and an evidentiary hearing, the court would identify the proven conduct and causal connection, then order reimbursement of reasonable attorney's fees and necessary costs such as supervised visitation, reunification services, counseling, parenting coordination, guardians ad litem, or evaluations required to remedy the harm. The bill should include clear definitions, proportionality, ability-to-pay safeguards, and protection for good-faith safety reports so that the remedy is not misused.

A carefully limited reimbursement rule would place avoidable costs on the party whose proven conduct caused them, deter future interference, and preserve resources for the child's needs. Please consider sponsoring this proposal. I would welcome a brief call with you or your staff.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUR FULL NAME

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Florida Appealability of Temporary Family-Law Orders 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 expedited review of temporary orders that substantially affect parent-child rights

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support the Florida Appealability of Temporary Family-Law Orders Act.

Florida's appellate rules permit immediate review of certain nonfinal orders, including defined categories of injunction and monetary-relief orders. Yet some temporary family-law orders that suspend or materially restrict custody, time-sharing, access, or communication may remain outside ordinary immediate review. Although labeled temporary, these orders can last for months, shape a child's status quo, and cause harm that a later appeal cannot fully repair.

This proposal would create a narrow, expedited path for interlocutory review when a temporary order substantially restricts the parent-child relationship or determines another essential family right. The legislation should establish a clear filing procedure, priority handling, and an appropriate threshold for review. An appeal should not automatically stay the trial case, and courts should retain authority to protect children while review is pending.

The goal is not routine piecemeal litigation. It is timely oversight for orders with potentially irreversible consequences. Please consider sponsoring this reform and coordinating with the Florida Supreme Court's rulemaking process so the statutory and appellate procedures work together. I would welcome a brief call with you or your staff.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUR FULL NAME

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Florida Litigant Access and Economy 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 dependable remote access for civil, family, and probate litigants

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support the Florida Litigant Access and Economy Act.

Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.530 provides a framework for communication technology, but practical access can still vary by judge, division, and circuit. For routine non-evidentiary hearings, an in-person-only requirement can impose lost wages, transportation expenses, child-care costs, disability barriers, and unnecessary travel on self-represented and low-income litigants.

This proposal would make remote appearance presumptively available for non-evidentiary civil, family, and probate proceedings. It would allow remote participation in evidentiary matters upon good cause, including medical limitations, caregiving duties, financial hardship, transportation problems, or employment conflicts. A denial would require specific written findings explaining why remote participation would materially impair due process, witness evaluation, courtroom security, or case resolution.

Uniform access standards would reduce missed hearings and continuances while preserving judicial control where in-person participation is genuinely necessary. Please consider sponsoring this proposal and coordinating it with the Florida Supreme Court's rulemaking authority. I would welcome a brief call with you or your staff.

Respectfully submitted,

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Florida Cameras in the Courtroom Act

DATE

LEGISLATOR'S FULL NAME

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Re: Request to sponsor a secure, uniform audiovisual record of on-the-record court proceedings

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support the Florida Cameras in the Courtroom Act.

Florida has a strong tradition of open courts, and existing rules allow electronic media coverage subject to judicial authority. The proposed reform would address a different issue: creation of a dependable official audiovisual recording of on-the-record proceedings in every Florida courtroom, with uniform standards for retention, access, security, and redaction.

The recording would supplement, not replace, the certified transcript or other official record designated by law. The legislation should protect sealed and confidential matters, children's identifying information, privileged communications, juror privacy, and proceedings closed by law. It should exclude genuinely off-the-record discussions and provide secure access to parties and authorized oversight bodies under existing confidentiality rules. A phased implementation plan would allow the Office of the State Courts Administrator to address equipment, storage, and funding.

A reliable audiovisual record can improve accuracy, accountability, public confidence, and review of disputed courtroom events without turning sensitive proceedings into public broadcasts. Please consider sponsoring this carefully safeguarded transparency measure. I would welcome a brief call with you or your staff.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUR FULL NAME

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Florida Justice Delayed Is Justice Denied Act

DATE

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SALUTATION: REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR + LAST NAME

Re: Request to sponsor a clear deadline for rulings in family-court matters

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support the Florida Justice Delayed Is Justice Denied Act.

Florida's court-administration rules require judges to rule within a reasonable time and to report matters held under advisement for more than 60 days. In family cases involving time-sharing, support, enforcement, or protection, even a much shorter delay can destabilize children, prolong separation, increase fees, and leave families unable to plan.

This proposal would require a ruling within 10 business days after a family-law hearing or trial is concluded, or within 7 business days after authorized post-hearing submissions are complete, whichever is later. If extraordinary circumstances make that deadline impracticable, the judge would issue a brief written extension explaining the reason and provide regular status updates until the ruling is entered. The measure should include a practical review mechanism through the chief judge and preserve priority for emergencies and complex matters.

Clear deadlines and transparent extensions would promote timely decisions while respecting legitimate judicial workload and case complexity. Please consider sponsoring this reform and coordinating it with the Florida Supreme Court's rulemaking authority. I would welcome a brief call with you or your staff. Respectfully submitted,

YOUR FULL NAME

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Florida Equal Shared Parenting Act A New Start at Equality

DATE

LEGISLATOR'S FULL NAME

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR FLORIDA SENATE

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Re: Request to strengthen Florida's existing equal-time-sharing presumption

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support the Florida Equal Shared Parenting Act.

Florida law now recognizes a rebuttable presumption that equal time-sharing is in a child's best interests, and the presumption may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence. This proposal would strengthen that existing framework rather than duplicate it. When both parents are fit, willing, able, and geographically capable of sharing parenting time, a material departure from equal time-sharing would require clear and convincing evidence and specific written findings.

The measure could define substantially equal time-sharing as each parent receiving at least 45 percent of annual overnights, while allowing practical adjustments for school schedules, holidays, distance, and the child's individual needs. Existing safety protections for domestic violence, abuse, neglect, substance misuse, or other demonstrated harm must remain fully available, and courts must retain authority to order a different schedule when supported by the required evidence.

A stronger and more reviewable presumption would promote predictable outcomes, reduce strategic litigation, and protect children's meaningful relationships with both fit parents. Please consider sponsoring this proposal. I would welcome a brief call with you or your staff.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUR FULL NAME

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Florida Three Strikes Custody Interference Act

DATE

LEGISLATOR'S FULL NAME

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Re: Request to sponsor graduated enforcement for repeated, adjudicated time-sharing interference

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support the Florida Three Strikes Custody Interference Act.

Florida Statute 787.03 already treats qualifying interference with custody as a third-degree felony. Repeated willful violations of a time-sharing order, however, may be addressed through family-court enforcement and may not satisfy the separate elements of that criminal offense. This proposal would create a clear graduated response for repeated violations proven after notice and a hearing, without weakening or displacing existing criminal law.

A first and second adjudicated violation could require a \$500 civil penalty, prompt make-up time, and reimbursement of reasonable enforcement costs. A third or subsequent willful violation could trigger enhanced Chapter 61 sanctions and referral to the appropriate prosecuting authority when the facts may satisfy existing criminal law. A strike should require a written finding of willful interference without proper cause and should not arise from a good-faith safety report, an emergency, ambiguity in the order, or conduct protected by law.

Consistent, proportionate enforcement would deter repeated obstruction while preserving due process and legitimate child-safety protections. Please consider sponsoring a carefully drafted version of this proposal. I would welcome a brief call with you or your staff.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUR FULL NAME

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Florida Time Taken, Time Back Act

DATE

LEGISLATOR'S FULL NAME

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR FLORIDA SENATE

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Re: Request to extend compensatory time-sharing to qualifying court- or investigation-related losses

As a Florida constituent, I respectfully ask you to sponsor and support the Florida Time Taken, Time Back Act.

Florida Statute 61.13(4)(c) already requires make-up time when a parent refuses to honor the parenting plan without proper cause. A separate gap can arise when a court temporarily restricts time-sharing because of an investigation or allegation, but the inquiry ends without a substantiated finding of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Restoring the prior schedule may stop future loss, yet it does not address the parent-child time already lost.

This proposal would require prompt review and, absent good cause, compensatory time-sharing after a qualifying restriction ends without a substantiated adverse finding. The additional time would be comparable in type and duration to the time lost, scheduled expeditiously, and completed within a defined period. The parent deprived of time would receive reasonable scheduling priority, subject to the child's best interests, school obligations, safety, and practical limitations. The remedy would not create fault or damages against a court or investigative agency.

This targeted extension would help repair parent-child relationships, reduce repetitive enforcement litigation, and give courts a clear restoration mechanism. Please consider sponsoring this reform. I would welcome a brief call with you or your staff.

Respectfully submitted,

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