By the Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means; the Committees on Judiciary; and Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and Senator Deutch

576-05848-09

2009904c3

	576-05848-09 20099040
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to parental responsibility and time-
3	sharing; amending s. 61.046, F.S.; redefining the
4	terms "parenting plan," "parenting plan
5	recommendations," and "time-sharing schedule";
6	creating s. 61.125, F.S.; providing for parenting
7	coordination as an alternative dispute resolution
8	process to resolve parenting plan disputes; providing
9	for court referral; providing for domestic violence
10	situations; providing the qualifications required for
11	a parenting coordinator and for the disqualification
12	of a coordinator; providing for the payment of
13	parenting coordination fees and costs; providing for
14	confidentiality; providing for emergency reporting to
15	the court by the coordinator; providing a limitation
16	on the coordinator's liability; amending s. 61.13,
17	F.S., relating to child support, parenting plans, and
18	time-sharing; deleting obsolete provisions; requiring
19	a parenting plan to include the address to be used for
20	determining school boundaries; revising the elements
21	of the rebuttable presumption that shared parental
22	responsibility is detrimental to a child when a parent
23	is convicted of a crime involving domestic violence;
24	providing that the presumption applies to a crime that
25	is a misdemeanor of the first degree or higher rather
26	than to a crime that is a felony of the third degree
27	or higher; allowing the modification of a parenting
28	plan only upon a showing of substantially changed
29	circumstances; requiring a court to make explicit

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 30 written findings if, when determining the best 31 interests of a child for the purposes of shared 32 parental responsibility and visitation, the court 33 considered evidence of domestic or sexual violence and child abuse, abandonment, or neglect; amending s. 34 35 61.13001, F.S., relating to parental relocation; 36 deleting terms and redefining the terms "other 37 person," "parent," and "relocation"; substituting the term "access to" for "visitation"; deleting provisions 38 relating to the requirement for a Notice of Intent to 39 40 Relocate and substituting procedures relating to 41 filing a petition to relocate; requiring a hearing on 42 a motion seeking a temporary relocation to be held 43 within a certain time; providing for applicability of 44 changes made by the act; amending ss. 61.183, 61.20, 45 61.21, and 61.30, F.S.; conforming provisions to 46 changes made by the act; amending s. 741.30, F.S., 47 relating to domestic violence; authorizing a court to 48 issue an ex parte injunction that provides a temporary 49 parenting plan; providing an effective date. 50 51 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 52 Section 1. Subsections (13), (14), and (22) of section 53 54 61.046, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 55 61.046 Definitions.-As used in this chapter, the term: 56 (13) "Parenting plan" means a document created to govern 57 the relationship between the parents parties relating to the 58 decisions that must be made regarding the minor child and must

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 59 shall contain a time-sharing schedule for the parents and child. 60 The issues concerning the minor child may include, but are not limited to, the child's education, health care, and physical, 61 62 social, and emotional well-being. In creating the plan, all 63 circumstances between the parents parties, including their the 64 parties' historic relationship, domestic violence, and other 65 factors must be taken into consideration. 66 (a) The parenting plan must shall be: 67 1. Developed and agreed to by the parents and approved by a 68 court; or, 69 2. If the parents cannot agree, Established by the court, 70 with or without the use of a court-ordered parenting plan 71 recommendation, if the parents cannot agree to a plan or the 72 parents agreed to a plan that is not approved by the court. 73 (b) (a) Any parenting plan formulated under this chapter 74 must address all jurisdictional issues, including, but not 75 limited to, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and 76 Enforcement Act, part II of this chapter, the International 77 Child Abduction Remedies Act, 42 U.S.C. ss. 11601 et seq., the 78 Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act, and the Convention on the 79 Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction enacted at the 80 Hague on October 25, 1980. 81 (c) (b) For purposes of the application of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, part II of this 82 83 chapter, a judgment or order incorporating a parenting plan 84 under this part is a child custody determination under part II 85 of this chapter. 86 (d) (c) For purposes of the International Child Abduction 87 Remedies Act, 42 U.S.C. ss. 11601 et seq., and the Convention on

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88	the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, enacted at
89	the Hague on October 25, 1980, rights of custody and rights of
90	<u>access are shall be</u> determined <u>pursuant to</u> under the parenting
91	plan under this part.
92	(14) "Parenting plan recommendation" means a nonbinding
93	recommendation concerning one or more elements of a parenting
94	plan made by a court-appointed mental health practitioner or
95	other professional designated pursuant to s. 61.20, s. 61.401,
96	or Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure 12.363 psychologist
97	licensed under chapter 490.
98	(22) "Time-sharing schedule" means a timetable that must be
99	included in the parenting plan that specifies the time,
100	including overnights and holidays, that a minor child will spend
101	with each parent. The time-sharing schedule shall be:
102	(a) If Developed and agreed to by the parents of a minor
103	child and, it must be approved by the court; or.
104	(b) Established by the court if the parents cannot agree <u>or</u>
105	if their agreed-upon schedule is not approved by the court $_{ au}$ the
106	schedule shall be established by the court.
107	Section 2. Section 61.125, Florida Statutes, is created to
108	read:
109	61.125 Parenting coordination
110	(1) PURPOSEThe purpose of parenting coordination is to
111	provide a child-focused alternative dispute resolution process
112	whereby a parenting coordinator assists the parents in creating
113	or implementing a parenting plan by facilitating the resolution
114	of disputes between the parents by providing education, making
115	recommendations, and, with the prior approval of the parents and
116	the court, making limited decisions within the scope of the

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117	court's order of referral.
118	(2) REFERRAL.—In any action in which a judgment or order
119	has been sought or entered adopting, establishing, or modifying
120	a parenting plan, except for a domestic violence proceeding
121	under chapter 741, and upon agreement of the parties, the
122	court's own motion, or the motion of a party, the court may
123	appoint a parenting coordinator and refer the parties to
124	parenting coordination to assist in the resolution of disputes
125	concerning their parenting plan.
126	(3) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES.—
127	(a) If there has been a history of domestic violence, the
128	court may not refer the parties to parenting coordination unless
129	both parents consent. The court shall offer each party an
130	opportunity to consult with an attorney or domestic violence
131	advocate before accepting the party's consent. The court must
132	determine whether each party's consent has been given freely and
133	voluntarily.
134	(b) In determining whether there has been a history of
135	domestic violence, the court shall consider whether a party has
136	committed an act of domestic violence as defined s. 741.28, or
137	child abuse as defined in s. 39.01, against the other party or
138	any member of the other party's family; engaged in a pattern of
139	behaviors that exert power and control over the other party and
140	that may compromise the other party's ability to negotiate a
141	fair result; or engaged in behavior that leads the other party
142	to have reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent
143	danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence. The court
144	shall consider and evaluate all relevant factors, including, but
145	not limited to, the factors listed in s. 741.30(6)(b).

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146	(c) If there is a history of domestic violence, the court
147	shall order safeguards to protect the safety of the
148	participants, including, but not limited to, adherence to all
149	provisions of an injunction for protection or conditions of
150	bail, probation, or a sentence arising from criminal
151	proceedings.
152	(4) QUALIFICATIONS OF A PARENTING COORDINATORA parenting
153	coordinator is an impartial third person whose role is to assist
154	the parents in successfully creating or implementing a parenting
155	plan. Unless there is a written agreement between the parties,
156	the court may appoint only a qualified parenting coordinator.
157	(a) To be qualified, a parenting coordinator must:
158	1. Meet one of the following professional requirements:
159	a. Be licensed as a mental health professional under
160	chapter 490 or chapter 491.
161	b. Be licensed as a physician under chapter 458, with
162	certification by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.
163	c. Be certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a family
164	law mediator, with at least a master's degree in a mental health
165	field.
166	d. Be a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.
167	2. Complete all of the following:
168	a. Three years of postlicensure or postcertification
169	practice.
170	b. A family mediation training program certified by the
171	Florida Supreme Court.
172	c. A minimum of 24 hours of parenting coordination training
173	in parenting coordination concepts and ethics, family systems
174	theory and application, family dynamics in separation and

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175	divorce, child and adolescent development, the parenting
176	coordination process, parenting coordination techniques, and
177	Florida family law and procedure, and a minimum of 4 hours of
178	training in domestic violence and child abuse which is related
179	to parenting coordination.
180	(b) The court may require additional qualifications to
181	address issues specific to the parties.
182	(c) A qualified parenting coordinator must be in good
183	standing, or in clear and active status, with his or her
184	respective licensing authority, certification board, or both, as
185	applicable.
186	(5) DISQUALIFICATIONS OF PARENTING COORDINATOR
187	(a) The court may not appoint a person to serve as
188	parenting coordinator who, in any jurisdiction:
189	1. Has been convicted or had adjudication withheld on a
190	charge of child abuse, child neglect, domestic violence,
191	parental kidnapping, or interference with custody;
192	2. Has been found by a court in a child protection hearing
193	to have abused, neglected, or abandoned a child;
194	3. Has consented to an adjudication or a withholding of
195	adjudication on a petition for dependency; or
196	4. Is or has been a respondent in a final order or
197	injunction of protection against domestic violence.
198	(b) A parenting coordinator must discontinue service as a
199	parenting coordinator and immediately report to the court and
200	the parties if any of the disqualifying circumstances described
201	in paragraph (a) occur, or if he or she no longer meets the
202	minimum qualifications in subsection (4), and the court may
203	appoint another parenting coordinator.

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204	(6) FEES FOR PARENTING COORDINATIONThe court shall
205	determine the allocation of fees and costs for parenting
206	coordination between the parties. The court may not order the
207	parties to parenting coordination without their consent unless
208	it determines that the parties have the financial ability to pay
209	the parenting coordination fees and costs.
210	(a) In determining if a nonindigent party has the financial
211	ability to pay the parenting coordination fees and costs, the
212	court shall consider the party's financial circumstances,
213	including income, assets, liabilities, financial obligations,
214	resources, and whether paying the fees and costs would create a
215	substantial hardship.
216	(b) If a party is found to be indigent based upon the
217	factors in s. 57.082, the court may not order the party to
218	parenting coordination unless public funds are available to pay
219	the indigent party's allocated portion of the fees and costs or
220	the nonindigent party consents to paying all of the fees and
221	<u>costs.</u>
222	(7) CONFIDENTIALITYExcept as otherwise provided in this
223	section, all communications made by, between, or among the
224	parties and the parenting coordinator during parenting
225	coordination sessions are confidential. The parenting
226	coordinator and each party designated in the order appointing
227	the coordinator may not testify or offer evidence about
228	communications made by, between, or among the parties and the
229	parenting coordinator during parenting coordination sessions,
230	except if:
231	(a) Necessary to identify, authenticate, confirm, or deny a
232	written agreement entered into by the parties during parenting

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233	coordination;
234	(b) The testimony or evidence is necessary to identify an
235	issue for resolution by the court without otherwise disclosing
236	communications made by any party or the parenting coordinator;
237	(c) The testimony or evidence is limited to the subject of
238	a party's compliance with the order of referral to parenting
239	coordination, orders for psychological evaluation, counseling
240	ordered by the court or recommended by a health care provider,
241	or for substance abuse testing or treatment;
242	(d) The parenting coordinator reports that the case is no
243	longer appropriate for parenting coordination;
244	(e) The parenting coordinator is reporting that he or she
245	is unable or unwilling to continue to serve and that a successor
246	parenting coordinator should be appointed;
247	(f) The testimony or evidence is necessary pursuant to
248	paragraph (5)(b) or subsection (8);
249	(g) The parenting coordinator is not qualified to address
250	or resolve certain issues in the case and a more qualified
251	coordinator should be appointed;
252	(h) The parties agree that the testimony or evidence be
253	permitted; or
254	(i) The testimony or evidence is necessary to protect any
255	person from future acts that would constitute domestic violence
256	under chapter 741; child abuse, neglect, or abandonment under
257	chapter 39; or abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly or
258	disabled adult under chapter 825.
259	(8) REPORT OF EMERGENCY TO COURT
260	(a) A parenting coordinator must immediately inform the
261	court by affidavit or verified report without notice to the

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262	parties of an emergency situation if:
263	1. There is a reasonable cause to suspect that a child will
264	suffer or is suffering abuse, neglect, or abandonment as
265	provided under chapter 39;
266	2. There is a reasonable cause to suspect a vulnerable
267	adult has been or is being abused, neglected, or exploited as
268	provided under chapter 415;
269	3. A party, or someone acting on a party's behalf, is
270	expected to wrongfully remove or is wrongfully removing the
271	child from the jurisdiction of the court without prior court
272	approval or compliance with the requirements of s. 61.13001. If
273	the parenting coordinator suspects that the parent has relocated
274	within the state to avoid domestic violence, the coordinator may
275	not disclose the location of the parent and child unless
276	required by court order.
277	(b) Upon such information and belief, a parenting
278	coordinator shall immediately inform the court by affidavit or
279	verified report and serve a copy on each party of an emergency
280	in which a party obtains a final order or injunction of
281	protection against domestic violence or is arrested for an act
282	of domestic violence as provided under chapter 741.
283	(9) LIMITATION ON LIABILITYA parenting coordinator
284	appointed by the court is not liable for civil damages for any
285	act or omission in the scope of his or her duties pursuant to an
286	order of referral unless such person acted in bad faith or with
287	malicious purpose or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful
288	disregard for the rights, safety, or property of the parties.
289	Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and subsections
290	(2), (3), and (6) of section 61.13, Florida Statutes, are

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proceeding.

576-05848-09 2009904c3 291 amended to read: 292 61.13 Support of children; parenting and time-sharing; 293 powers of court.-294 (1)295 (d)1. Unless the provisions of subparagraph 2. 3. apply, 296 all child support orders must require entered on or after 297 January 1, 1985, shall direct that child support the payments be made of child support be made as provided in s. 61.181 through 298 299 the depository in the county where the court is located as 300 provided in s. 61.181. All child support orders must shall 301 provide the full name and date of birth of each minor child who 302 is the subject of the child support order. 303 2. Unless the provisions of subparagraph 3. apply, all child support orders entered before January 1, 1985, shall be 304 305 modified by the court to direct that payments of child support 306 shall be made through the depository in the county where the 307 court is located upon the subsequent appearance of either or 308 both parents to modify or enforce the order, or in any related

310 <u>2.3.</u> If both parties request and the court finds that it is 311 in the best interest of the child, support payments need not be 312 directed through the depository. The order of support <u>must</u> shall 313 provide, or shall be deemed to provide, that either party may 314 subsequently apply to the depository to require <u>that</u> direction 315 of the payments <u>be made</u> through the depository. The court shall 316 provide a copy of the order to the depository.

317 <u>3.4.</u> If the parties elect not to require that support 318 payments be made through the depository, any party may 319 subsequently file an affidavit with the depository alleging a

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 320 default in payment of child support and stating that the party 321 wishes to require that payments be made through the depository. 322 The party shall provide copies of the affidavit to the court and 323 to the each other party. Fifteen days after receipt of the 324 affidavit, the depository shall notify both parties that future 325 payments must shall be paid through the depository. 326 4.5. In IV-D cases, the IV-D agency has shall have the same 327 rights as the obligee in requesting that payments be made 328 through the depository. 329 (2) (a) The court may shall have jurisdiction to approve, 330 grant, or modify a parenting plan, notwithstanding that the 331 child is not physically present in this state at the time of 332 filing any proceeding under this chapter, if it appears to the 333 court that the child was removed from this state for the primary 334 purpose of removing the child from the court's jurisdiction of 335 the court in an attempt to avoid the court's approval, creation, 336 or modification of a parenting plan. 337 (b) A Any parenting plan approved by the court must, at a minimum, describe in adequate detail how the parents will share 338 339 and be responsible for the daily tasks associated with the 340 upbringing of the child; τ the time-sharing schedule arrangements 341 that specify the time that the minor child will spend with each 342 parent; τ a designation of who will be responsible for any and

343 all forms of health care, school-related matters <u>including the</u> 344 <u>address to be used for school-boundary determination and</u> 345 <u>registration</u>, <u>and</u> other activities; and the methods and 346 technologies that the parents will use to communicate with the 347 child.

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(c) 1. The court shall determine all matters relating to

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 349 parenting and time-sharing of each minor child of the parties in 350 accordance with the best interests of the child and in 351 accordance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and 352 Enforcement Act, except that modification of a parenting plan 353 and time-sharing schedule requires a showing of a substantial, 354 material, and unanticipated change of circumstances. 355 1. It is the public policy of this state to assure that 356 each minor child has frequent and continuing contact with both 357 parents after the parents separate or the marriage of the 358 parties is dissolved and to encourage parents to share the 359 rights and responsibilities, and joys, of childrearing. There is 360 no presumption for or against the father or mother of the child 361 or for or against any specific time-sharing schedule when 362 creating or modifying the parenting plan of the child. 363 2. The court shall order that the parental responsibility 364 for a minor child be shared by both parents unless the court 365 finds that shared parental responsibility would be detrimental 366 to the child. Evidence that a parent has been convicted of a 367 misdemeanor felony of the first third degree or higher involving 368 domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28 and chapter 775, or meets the criteria of s. 39.806(1)(d), creates a rebuttable 369 370 presumption of detriment to the child. If the presumption is not rebutted, shared parental responsibility, including time-sharing 371 372 with the child, and decisions made regarding the child, may not 373 be granted to the convicted parent. However, the convicted 374 parent is not relieved of any obligation to provide financial support. If the court determines that shared parental 375 376 responsibility would be detrimental to the child, it may order 377 sole parental responsibility and make such arrangements for

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 378 time-sharing as specified in the parenting plan as will best 379 protect the child or abused spouse from further harm. Whether or not there is a conviction of any offense of domestic violence or 380 381 child abuse or the existence of an injunction for protection 382 against domestic violence, the court shall consider evidence of 383 domestic violence or child abuse as evidence of detriment to the 384 child.

385 a. In ordering shared parental responsibility, the court may consider the expressed desires of the parents and may grant 386 387 to one party the ultimate responsibility over specific aspects 388 of the child's welfare or may divide those responsibilities 389 between the parties based on the best interests of the child. 390 Areas of responsibility may include education, health care, and 391 any other responsibilities that the court finds unique to a 392 particular family.

393 b. The court shall order "sole parental responsibility for 394 a minor child to one parent, with or without time-sharing with 395 the other parent" <u>if when</u> it is in the best interests of the 396 minor child.

397 3. Access to records and information pertaining to a minor 398 child, including, but not limited to, medical, dental, and 399 school records, may not be denied to either parent. Full rights 400 under this subparagraph apply to either parent unless a court order specifically revokes these rights, including any 401 402 restrictions on these rights as provided in a domestic violence 403 injunction. A parent having rights under this subparagraph has 404 the same rights upon request as to form, substance, and manner 405 of access as are available to the other parent of a child, 406 including, without limitation, the right to in-person

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 407 communication with medical, dental, and education providers. 408 (d) The circuit court in the county in which either parent 409 and the child reside or the circuit court in which the original 410 order approving or creating the parenting plan was entered may 411 has jurisdiction to modify the parenting plan. The court may 412 change the venue in accordance with s. 47.122. 413 (3) For purposes of establishing or modifying parental 414 responsibility and creating, developing, approving, or modifying 415 a parenting plan, including a time-sharing schedule, which 416 governs each parent's relationship with his or her minor child 417 and the relationship between each parent with regard to his or 418 her minor child, the best interest of the child shall be the 419 primary consideration. A determination of parental 420 responsibility, a parenting plan, or a time-sharing schedule may 421 not be modified without a showing of a substantial, material, 422 and unanticipated change in circumstances and a determination 423 that the modification is in the best interests of the child. 424 Determination of the best interests of the child shall be made 425 by evaluating all of the factors affecting the welfare and 426 interests of the particular minor child and the circumstances of 427 that family, including, but not limited to: 428 (a) The demonstrated capacity and disposition of each

429 parent to facilitate and encourage a close and continuing 430 parent-child relationship, to honor the time-sharing schedule, 431 and to be reasonable when changes are required.

(b) The anticipated division of parental responsibilities
after the litigation, including the extent to which parental
responsibilities will be delegated to third parties.

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(c) The demonstrated capacity and disposition of each

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 436 parent to determine, consider, and act upon the needs of the 437 child as opposed to the needs or desires of the parent. 438 (d) The length of time the child has lived in a stable, 439 satisfactory environment and the desirability of maintaining 440 continuity. 441 (e) The geographic viability of the parenting plan, with 442 special attention paid to the needs of school-age children and 443 the amount of time to be spent traveling to effectuate the parenting plan. This factor does not create a presumption for or 444 445 against relocation of either parent with a child. (f) The moral fitness of the parents. 446 447 (q) The mental and physical health of the parents. 448 (h) The home, school, and community record of the child. 449 (i) The reasonable preference of the child, if the court 450 deems the child to be of sufficient intelligence, understanding, 451 and experience to express a preference. 452 (j) The demonstrated knowledge, capacity, and disposition 453 of each parent to be informed of the circumstances of the minor child, including, but not limited to, the child's friends, 454 455 teachers, medical care providers, daily activities, and favorite 456 things. 457 (k) The demonstrated capacity and disposition of each 458 parent to provide a consistent routine for the child, such as 459 discipline, and daily schedules for homework, meals, and 460 bedtime. 461 (1) The demonstrated capacity of each parent to communicate 462 with and keep the other parent informed of issues and activities 463 regarding the minor child, and the willingness of each parent to 464 adopt a unified front on all major issues when dealing with the

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465 child.

466 (m) Evidence of domestic violence, sexual violence, child 467 abuse, child abandonment, or child neglect, regardless of 468 whether a prior or pending action relating to those issues has 469 been brought. If the court accepts evidence of prior or pending 470 actions regarding domestic violence, sexual violence, child 471 abuse, child abandonment, or child neglect, the court must 472 specifically acknowledge in writing that such evidence was 473 considered when evaluating the best interests of the child.

(n) Evidence that either parent has knowingly provided
false information to the court regarding any prior or pending
action regarding domestic violence, sexual violence, child
abuse, child abandonment, or child neglect.

(o) The particular parenting tasks customarily performed by
each parent and the division of parental responsibilities before
the institution of litigation and during the pending litigation,
including the extent to which parenting responsibilities were
undertaken by third parties.

(p) The demonstrated capacity and disposition of each parent to participate and be involved in the child's school and extracurricular activities.

(q) The demonstrated capacity and disposition of each parent to maintain an environment for the child which is free from substance abuse.

(r) The capacity and disposition of each parent to protect the child from the ongoing litigation as demonstrated by not discussing the litigation with the child, not sharing documents or electronic media related to the litigation with the child, and refraining from disparaging comments about the other parent

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 494 to the child. 495 (s) The developmental stages and needs of the child and the 496 demonstrated capacity and disposition of each parent to meet the 497 child's developmental needs. 498 (t) Any other factor that is relevant to the determination 499 of a specific parenting plan, including the time-sharing 500 schedule. 501 (6) In any proceeding under this section, the court may not 502 deny shared parental responsibility and time-sharing rights to a parent solely because that parent is or is believed to be 503 504 infected with human immunodeficiency virus, but the court may, 505 condition such rights to require that parent in an order approving the parenting plan, require that parent to observe 506 507 measures approved by the Centers for Disease Control and 508 Prevention of the United States Public Health Service or by the 509 Department of Health for preventing the spread of human 510 immunodeficiency virus to the child. 511 Section 4. Section 61.13001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 512 61.13001 Parental relocation with a child.-513 514 (1) DEFINITIONS.-As used in this section, the term: 515 (a) "Change of residence address" means the relocation of a child to a principal residence more than 50 miles away from his 516 517 or her principal place of residence at the time of the entry of 518 the last order establishing or modifying the parenting plan or the time-sharing schedule or both for the minor child, unless 519 520 the move places the principal residence of the minor child less 521 than 50 miles from either parent. 522 (a) (b) "Child" means any person who is under the

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 523 jurisdiction of a state court pursuant to the Uniform Child 524 Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act or is the subject of 525 any order granting to a parent or other person any right to 526 time-sharing, residential care, kinship, or custody, as provided 527 under state law. 528 (b) (c) "Court" means the circuit court in an original 529 proceeding which has proper venue and jurisdiction in accordance 530 with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, 531 the circuit court in the county in which either parent and the 532 child reside, or the circuit court in which the original action 533 was adjudicated. 534 (c) (d) "Other person" means an individual who is not the 535 parent, but with whom the child resides pursuant to and who, by court order, maintains the primary residence of a child or who 536 537 has the right of access to, time-sharing with, or visitation 538 with the visitation rights with a child. 539 (d) (e) "Parent" means any person so named by court order or 540 express written agreement who that is subject to court enforcement or a person reflected as a parent on a birth 541 542 certificate and who is entitled to access to or time-sharing 543 with the child in whose home a child maintains a residence. 544 (e) (f) "Relocation" means a change in the location of the 545 principal residence of a parent or other person from his or her principal place of residence at the time of the last order 546 547 establishing or modifying time-sharing, or at the time of filing 548 the pending action to establish or modify time-sharing. The 549 change of location must be at least 50 miles from that 550 residence, and for at least child for a period of 60 consecutive 551 days not including or more but does not include a temporary

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 552 absence from the principal residence for purposes of vacation, 553 education, or the provision of health care for the child. 554 (2) RELOCATION BY AGREEMENT.-555 (a) If the parents and every other person entitled to 556 access to or time-sharing with the child agree to the relocation 557 of the child, they may satisfy the requirements of this section 558 by signing a written agreement that: 559 1. Reflects the consent to the relocation; 560 2. Defines an access or a time-sharing schedule for the 561 nonrelocating parent and any other persons who are entitled to 562 access or time-sharing; and 563 3. Describes, if necessary, any transportation arrangements 564 related to access or time-sharing the visitation. 565 (b) If there is an existing cause of action, judgment, or 566 decree of record pertaining to the child's residence or a time-567 sharing schedule, the parties shall seek ratification of the 568 agreement by court order without the necessity of an evidentiary 569 hearing unless a hearing is requested, in writing, by one or 570 more of the parties to the agreement within 10 days after the 571 date the agreement is filed with the court. If a hearing is not 572 timely requested, it shall be presumed that the relocation is in 573 the best interest of the child and the court may ratify the 574 agreement without an evidentiary hearing. 575 (3) PETITION NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELOCATE WITH A CHILD.-576 Unless an agreement has been entered as described in subsection 577 (2), a parent or other person seeking relocation must file a 578 petition to relocate and serve it upon who is entitled to time-579 sharing with the child shall notify the other parent, and every other person entitled to access to or time-sharing with the 580

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 581 child, of a proposed relocation of the child's residence. The 582 pleadings must be in accordance with form of notice shall be 583 according to this section: 584 (a) The petition to relocate must be signed under oath or 585 affirmation under penalty of perjury and include parent seeking 586 to relocate shall prepare a Notice of Intent to Relocate. The 587 following information must be included with the Notice of Intent 588 to Relocate and signed under oath under penalty of perjury: 589 1. A description of the location of the intended new 590 residence, including the state, city, and specific physical 591 address, if known. 592 2. The mailing address of the intended new residence, if 593 not the same as the physical address, if known. 594 3. The home telephone number of the intended new residence, 595 if known. 4. The date of the intended move or proposed relocation. 596 597 5. A detailed statement of the specific reasons for the 598 proposed relocation of the child. If one of the reasons is based 599 upon a job offer that which has been reduced to writing, the 600 that written job offer must be attached to the petition Notice 601 of Intent to Relocate. 602 6. A proposal for the revised postrelocation schedule for access and of time-sharing together with a proposal for the 603 604 postrelocation transportation arrangements necessary to 605 effectuate time-sharing with the child. Absent the existence of 606 a current, valid order abating, terminating, or restricting 607 access or time-sharing visitation or other good cause predating 608 the petition Notice of Intent to Relocate, failure to comply 609 with this provision renders the petition Notice of Intent to

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610	relocate legally insufficient.
611	7. Substantially the following statement, in all capital
612	letters and in the same size type, or larger, as the type in the
613	remainder of the <u>petition</u> notice :
614	
615	<u>A RESPONSE</u> AN OBJECTION TO THE PETITION OBJECTING TO PROPOSED
616	RELOCATION MUST BE MADE IN WRITING, FILED WITH THE COURT, AND
617	SERVED ON THE PARENT OR OTHER PERSON SEEKING TO RELOCATE WITHIN
618	20 30 DAYS AFTER SERVICE OF THIS <u>PETITION</u> NOTICE OF INTENT TO
619	RELOCATE. IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY OBJECT TO THE RELOCATION, THE
620	RELOCATION WILL BE ALLOWED, UNLESS IT IS NOT IN THE BEST
621	INTERESTS OF THE CHILD, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AND WITHOUT A
622	HEARING.
623	8. The mailing address of the parent or other person
624	seeking to relocate to which the objection filed under
625	subsection (5) to the Notice of Intent to Relocate should be
626	sent.
627	
628	The contents of the Notice of Intent to Relocate are not
629	privileged. For purposes of encouraging amicable resolution of
630	the relocation issue, a copy of the Notice of Intent to Relocate
631	shall initially not be filed with the court but instead served
632	upon the nonrelocating parent, other person, and every other
633	person entitled to time-sharing with the child, and the original
634	thereof shall be maintained by the parent or other person
635	seeking to relocate.
636	(b) The parent seeking to relocate shall also prepare a
637	Certificate of Serving Notice of Intent to Relocate. The
638	certificate shall certify the date that the Notice of Intent to

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 639 Relocate was served on the other parent and on every other 640 person entitled to time-sharing with the child. 641 (b) (c) The petition Notice of Intent to relocate must, and 642 the Certificate of Serving Notice of Intent to Relocate, shall 643 be served on the other parent and on every other person entitled 644 to access to and time-sharing with the child. If there is a pending court action regarding the child, service of process may 645 646 be according to court rule. Otherwise, service of process shall 647 be according to chapters 48 and 49 or via certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested. 648

649 (c) (d) A parent or other person seeking to relocate giving
 650 notice of a proposed relocation or change of residence address
 651 under this section has a continuing duty to provide current and
 652 updated information required by this section when that
 653 information becomes known.

654 (d) (e) If the other parent and any other person entitled to 655 access to or time-sharing with the child fails to timely file a 656 response objecting to the petition to relocate an objection, it is shall be presumed that the relocation is in the best interest 657 658 of the child and that τ the relocation should shall be allowed, 659 and the court shall, absent good cause, enter an order 660 specifying, attaching a copy of the Notice of Intent to 661 Relocate, reflecting that the order is entered as a result of 662 the failure to respond to the petition object to the Notice of 663 Intent to Relocate, and adopting the access and time-sharing 664 schedule and transportation arrangements contained in the 665 petition Notice of Intent to Relocate. The order may be issued 666 issue in an expedited manner without the necessity of an 667 evidentiary hearing. If a response an objection is timely filed,

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 668 the parent or other person may not relocate, and must proceed to 669 a temporary hearing or trial and burden returns to the parent or 670 person seeking to relocate to initiate court proceedings to 671 obtain court permission to relocate before doing so. 672 (e) (f) The act of Relocating the child without complying 673 after failure to comply with the requirements of notice of 674 intent to relocate procedure described in this subsection 675 subjects the party in violation thereof to contempt and other 676 proceedings to compel the return of the child and may be taken 677 into account by the court in any initial or postjudgment action 678 seeking a determination or modification of the parenting plan or 679 the access or the time-sharing schedule, or both, as: 1. A factor in making a determination regarding the 680 681 relocation of a child. 682 2. A factor in determining whether the parenting plan or 683 the access or time-sharing schedule should be modified. 684 3. A basis for ordering the temporary or permanent return 685 of the child. 686 4. Sufficient cause to order the parent or other person 687 seeking to relocate the child to pay reasonable expenses and 688 attorney's fees incurred by the party objecting to the 689 relocation. 690 5. Sufficient cause for the award of reasonable attorney's 691 fees and costs, including interim travel expenses incident to 692 access or time-sharing or securing the return of the child. (4) APPLICABILITY OF PUBLIC RECORDS LAW.-If the parent or 693 694 other person seeking to relocate a child, or the child, is 695 entitled to prevent disclosure of location information under a 696 any public records exemption applicable to that person, the

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 697 court may enter any order necessary to modify the disclosure 698 requirements of this section in compliance with the public 699 records exemption. 700 (5) CONTENT OF OBJECTION TO RELOCATION.-An answer objecting 701 to a proposed relocation objection seeking to prevent the relocation of a child must be verified and served within 30 days 702 703 after service of the Notice of Intent to Relocate. The objection 704 must include the specific factual basis supporting the reasons 705 for seeking a prohibition of the relocation, including a 706 statement of the amount of participation or involvement the 707 objecting party currently has or has had in the life of the 708 child. 709 (6) TEMPORARY ORDER.-710 (a) The court may grant a temporary order restraining the 711 relocation of a child, order or ordering the return of the 712 child, if a relocation has previously taken place, or order other appropriate remedial relief, if the court finds: 713 714 1. That the petition to relocate does not comply with 715 subsection (3) The required notice of a proposed relocation of a 716 child was not provided in a timely manner; 717 2. That the child already has been relocated without a 718 notice or written agreement of the parties or without court 719 approval; or 720 3. From an examination of the evidence presented at the 721 preliminary hearing that there is a likelihood that upon final 722 hearing the court will not approve the relocation of the child. 723 (b) The court may grant a temporary order permitting the 724 relocation of the child pending final hearing, if the court 725 finds:

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 726 1. Finds That the petition required Notice of Intent to 727 relocate was properly filed and is otherwise in compliance with 728 subsection (3) provided in a timely manner; and 2. Finds From an examination of the evidence presented at 729 730 the preliminary hearing, that there is a likelihood that on 731 final hearing the court will approve the relocation of the child, which findings must be supported by the same factual 732 733 basis as would be necessary to support approving the permitting 734 of relocation in a final judgment. 735 (c) If the court has issued a temporary order authorizing a 736 party seeking to relocate or move a child before a final 737 judgment is rendered, the court may not give any weight to the 738 temporary relocation as a factor in reaching its final decision. 739 (d) If temporary relocation of a child is approved 740 permitted, the court may require the person relocating the child 741 to provide reasonable security, financial or otherwise, and 742 guarantee that the court-ordered contact with the child will not 743 be interrupted or interfered with by the relocating party. 744 (7) NO PRESUMPTION; FACTORS TO DETERMINE CONTESTED 745 RELOCATION.-A presumption does not arise in favor of or against 746 a request to relocate with the child does not arise if when a 747 parent or other person seeks to relocate move the child and the 748 move will materially affect the current schedule of contact, 749 access, and time-sharing with the nonrelocating parent or other 750 person. In reaching its decision regarding a proposed temporary 751 or permanent relocation, the court shall evaluate all of the 752 following factors:

(a) The nature, quality, extent of involvement, and
duration of the child's relationship with the parent <u>or other</u>

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 755 person proposing to relocate with the child and with the 756 nonrelocating parent, other persons, siblings, half-siblings, 757 and other significant persons in the child's life. (b) The age and developmental stage of the child, the needs 758 759 of the child, and the likely impact the relocation will have on 760 the child's physical, educational, and emotional development, 761 taking into consideration any special needs of the child. 762 (c) The feasibility of preserving the relationship between 763 the nonrelocating parent or other person and the child through 764 substitute arrangements that take into consideration the 765 logistics of contact, access, and time-sharing, as well as the 766 financial circumstances of the parties; whether those factors 767 are sufficient to foster a continuing meaningful relationship 768 between the child and the nonrelocating parent or other person; 769 and the likelihood of compliance with the substitute 770 arrangements by the relocating parent or other person once he or 771 she is out of the jurisdiction of the court. 772 (d) The child's preference, taking into consideration the 773 age and maturity of the child. 774 (e) Whether the relocation will enhance the general quality

(e) Whether the relocation will enhance the general quality of life for both the parent <u>or other person</u> seeking the relocation and the child, including, but not limited to, financial or emotional benefits or educational opportunities.

(f) The reasons of each parent or other person is for
seeking or opposing the relocation.

(g) The current employment and economic circumstances of each parent or other person and whether or not the proposed relocation is necessary to improve the economic circumstances of the parent or other person seeking relocation of the child.

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 784 (h) That the relocation is sought in good faith and the 785 extent to which the objecting parent has fulfilled his or her 786 financial obligations to the parent or other person seeking 787 relocation, including child support, spousal support, and 788 marital property and marital debt obligations. 789 (i) The career and other opportunities available to the 790 objecting parent or objecting other person if the relocation 791 occurs. 792 (j) A history of substance abuse or domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28 or which meets the criteria of s. 793 794 39.806(1)(d) by either parent, including a consideration of the 795 severity of such conduct and the failure or success of any 796 attempts at rehabilitation. 797 (k) Any other factor affecting the best interest of the 798 child or as set forth in s. 61.13. 799 (8) BURDEN OF PROOF.-The parent or other person wishing to 800 relocate has the burden of proving proof if an objection is 801 filed and must then initiate a proceeding seeking court 802 permission for relocation. The initial burden is on the parent 803 or person wishing to relocate to prove by a preponderance of the 804 evidence that relocation is in the best interest of the child. 805 If that burden of proof is met, the burden shifts to the 806 nonrelocating parent or other person to show by a preponderance 807 of the evidence that the proposed relocation is not in the best 808 interest of the child. 809 (9) ORDER REGARDING RELOCATION.-If relocation is approved 810 permitted: 811 (a) The court may, in its discretion, order contact with 812 the nonrelocating parent or other person, including access,

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 813 time-sharing, telephone, Internet, webcam, and other 814 arrangements sufficient to ensure that the child has frequent, continuing, and meaningful contact, access, and time-sharing 815 816 with the nonrelocating parent or other person persons, if 817 contact is financially affordable and in the best interest of 818 the child. 819 (b) If applicable, the court shall specify how the 820 transportation costs are to will be allocated between the parents and other persons entitled to contact, access, and time-821 sharing and may adjust the child support award, as appropriate, 822 823 considering the costs of transportation and the respective net 824 incomes of the parents in accordance with the state child 825 support guidelines schedule. 826 (10) PRIORITY FOR HEARING OR TRIAL.-An evidentiary hearing 827 or nonjury trial on a pleading seeking temporary or permanent 828 relief filed under this section shall be accorded priority on 829 the court's calendar. If a motion seeking a temporary relocation 830 is filed, absent good cause, the hearing must occur no later than 30 days after the motion for a temporary relocation is 831 832 filed. If a notice to set the matter for a nonjury trial is 833 filed, absent good cause, the nonjury trial must occur no later 834 than 90 days after the notice is filed. 835 (11) APPLICABILITY.-836 (a) This section applies:

1. To orders entered before October 1, 2009 2006, if the
existing order defining custody, primary residence, the
parenting plan, time-sharing, or access to visitation of or with
the child does not expressly govern the relocation of the child.
2. To an order, whether temporary or permanent, regarding

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 842 the parenting plan, custody, primary residence, time-sharing, or 843 access to visitation of or with the child entered on or after October 1, 2009 2006. 844 845 3. To any relocation or proposed relocation, whether 846 permanent or temporary, of a child during any proceeding pending 847 on October 1, 2009 2006, wherein the parenting plan, custody, 848 primary residence, time-sharing, or access to visitation of or 849 with the child is an issue. 850 (b) To the extent that a provision of this section 851 conflicts with an order existing on October 1, 2009 2006, this 852 section does not apply to the terms of that order which 853 expressly govern relocation of the child or a change in the 854 principal residence address of a parent or other person. 855 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 61.183, Florida 856 Statutes, is amended to read: 857 61.183 Mediation of certain contested issues.-858 (1) In any proceeding in which the issues of parental 859 responsibility, primary residence, access to, visitation with, 860 or support of a child are contested, the court may refer the 861 parties to mediation in accordance with rules promulgated by the 862 Supreme Court. In Title IV-D cases, any costs, including filing 863 fees, recording fees, mediation costs, service of process fees, 864 and other expenses incurred by the clerk of the circuit court, 865 shall be assessed only against the nonprevailing obligor after 866 the court makes a determination of the nonprevailing obligor's 867 ability to pay such costs and fees. 868 Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 61.20, Florida 869 Statutes, is amended to read:

870

61.20 Social investigation and recommendations regarding a

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576-05848-092009904c3871parenting plan.-872(3) Except as to persons who obtain certification of873indigence as specified in subsection (2), for whom no costs are874shall be incurred, the parents adult parties involved in a875proceeding to determine a parenting plan where wherein the court876bas ordered the performance of a social investigation and study

has ordered the performance of a social investigation and study are shall be responsible for paying the payment of the costs of the such investigation and study. Upon submitting submission of the study to the court, the agency, staff, or person performing the study shall include a bill for services, which shall be taxed and ordered paid as costs in the proceeding.

882 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and subsections 883 (5) and (9) of section 61.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to 884 read:

885 61.21 Parenting course authorized; fees; required 886 attendance authorized; contempt.-

(2) The Department of Children and Family Services shall
approve a parenting course which shall be a course of a minimum
of 4 hours designed to educate, train, and assist divorcing
parents in regard to the consequences of divorce on parents and
children.

(a) The parenting course referred to in this section shall
be named the Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course
and may include, but need not be limited to, the following
topics as they relate to court actions between parents involving
custody, care, <u>time-sharing visitation</u>, and support of a child
or children:

898 1. Legal aspects of deciding child-related issues between 899 parents.

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 900 2. Emotional aspects of separation and divorce on adults. 901 3. Emotional aspects of separation and divorce on children. 902 4. Family relationships and family dynamics. 903 5. Financial responsibilities to a child or children. 904 6. Issues regarding spousal or child abuse and neglect. 905 7. Skill-based relationship education that may be 906 generalized to parenting, workplace, school, neighborhood, and 907 civic relationships. 908 (5) All parties required to complete a parenting course 909 under this section shall begin the course as expeditiously as 910 possible. For dissolution of marriage actions, unless excused by 911 the court pursuant to subsection (4), the petitioner must 912 complete the course within 45 days after the filing of the 913 petition, and all other parties must complete the course within 914 45 days after service of the petition. For paternity actions, 915 unless excused by the court pursuant to subsection (4), the 916 petitioner must complete the course within 45 days after filing 917 the petition, and any other party must complete the course 918 within 45 days after an acknowledgment of paternity by that 919 party, an adjudication of paternity of that party, or an order 920 granting time-sharing visitation to or support from that party. 921 Each party to a dissolution or paternity action shall file proof 922 of compliance with this subsection with the court prior to the 923 entry of the final judgment. 924

924 (9) The court may hold any parent who fails to attend a
925 required parenting course in contempt, or that parent may be
926 denied shared parental responsibility or <u>time-sharing</u> visitation
927 or otherwise sanctioned as the court deems appropriate.
928 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (11) of section

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 929 61.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 930 61.30 Child support guidelines; retroactive child support.-931 (11)932 (b) Whenever a particular parenting plan provides that each 933 child spend a substantial amount of time with each parent, the 934 court shall adjust any award of child support, as follows: 935 1. In accordance with subsections (9) and (10), calculate 936 the amount of support obligation apportioned to each parent 937 without including day care and health insurance costs in the

939 2. Calculate the percentage of overnight stays the child940 spends with each parent.

calculation and multiply the amount by 1.5.

3. Multiply each parent's support obligation as calculated
in subparagraph 1. by the percentage of the other parent's
overnight stays with the child as calculated in subparagraph 2.

944 4. The difference between the amounts calculated in
945 subparagraph 3. shall be the monetary transfer necessary between
946 the parents for the care of the child, subject to an adjustment
947 for day care and health insurance expenses.

5. Pursuant to subsections (7) and (8), calculate the net amounts owed by each parent for the expenses incurred for day care and health insurance coverage for the child. Day care shall be calculated without regard to the 25-percent reduction applied by subsection (7).

953 6. Adjust the support obligation owed by each parent 954 pursuant to subparagraph 4. by crediting or debiting the amount 955 calculated in subparagraph 5. This amount represents the child 956 support which must be exchanged between the parents.

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7. The court may deviate from the child support amount

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576-05848-09 2009904c3 958 calculated pursuant to subparagraph 6. based upon the deviation 959 factors in paragraph (a), as well as the obligee parent's low 960 income and ability to maintain the basic necessities of the home 961 for the child, the likelihood that either parent will actually 962 exercise the time-sharing schedule set forth in the parenting 963 plan granted by the court, and whether all of the children are 964 exercising the same time-sharing schedule. 965 8. For purposes of adjusting any award of child support 966 under this paragraph, "substantial amount of time" means that a 967 parent exercises access visitation at least 40 percent of the 968 overnights of the year. 969 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 741.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 970 971 741.30 Domestic violence; injunction; powers and duties of 972 court and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary 973 injunction; issuance of injunction; statewide verification 974 system; enforcement.-975 (5) (a) If When it appears to the court that an immediate 976 and present danger of domestic violence exists, the court may 977 grant a temporary injunction ex parte, pending a full hearing, 978 and may grant such relief as the court deems proper, including 979 an injunction: 980 1. Restraining the respondent from committing any acts of 981 domestic violence. 982 2. Awarding to the petitioner the temporary exclusive use 983 and possession of the dwelling that the parties share or 984 excluding the respondent from the residence of the petitioner.

9853. On the same basis as provided in s. 61.13, providing the986petitioner a temporary parenting plan, including a time-sharing

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987	schedule, which may award the petitioner up to with 100 percent
988	of the time-sharing. The temporary parenting plan remains that
989	shall remain in effect until the order expires or an order is
990	entered by a court of competent jurisdiction in a pending or
991	subsequent civil action or proceeding affecting the placement
992	of, access to, parental time with, adoption of, or parental
993	rights and responsibilities for the minor child.
994	Section 10. This act shall take effect October 1, 2009.