1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to parenting and time-sharing of minor
3	children; amending s. 61.13, F.S.; deleting the
4	requirement for an unanticipated change in
5	circumstances in order to modify a parenting plan or
6	time-sharing schedule; creating a presumption that
7	equal time-sharing is in the best interests of a
8	child, with exceptions; creating a presumption for
9	purposes of modifying a parenting plan or time-sharing
10	schedule; conforming provisions to changes made by the
11	act; providing an effective date.
12	
13	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
14	
15	Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and subsection
16	(3) of section 61.13, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
17	61.13 Support of children; parenting and time-sharing;
18	powers of court
19	(2)
20	(c) The court shall determine all matters relating to
21	parenting and time-sharing of each minor child of the parties in
22	accordance with the best interests of the child and in
23	accordance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and
24	Enforcement Act, except that modification of a parenting plan
25	and time-sharing schedule requires a showing of a substantial
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26 and, material, and unanticipated change of circumstances. 27 It is the public policy of this state that each minor 1. 28 child has frequent and continuing contact with both parents 29 after the parents separate or the marriage of the parties is 30 dissolved and to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities, and joys, of childrearing. Unless Except as 31 32 otherwise provided in this section or agreed to by the parties paragraph, there is a no presumption that equal for or against 33 34 the father or mother of the child or for or against any specific 35 time-sharing of a minor child is in the best interests of the 36 minor child who is common to the parties schedule when creating 37 or modifying the parenting plan of the child.

38 2. The court shall order that the parental responsibility 39 for a minor child be shared by both parents unless the court 40 finds that shared parental responsibility would be detrimental 41 to the child. The following evidence creates a rebuttable 42 presumption of detriment to the child:

a. A parent has been convicted of a misdemeanor of the
first degree or higher involving domestic violence, as defined
in s. 741.28 and chapter 775;

46 b. A parent meets the criteria of s. 39.806(1)(d); or
47 c. A parent has been convicted of or had adjudication

48 withheld for an offense enumerated in s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.a., and 49 at the time of the offense:

50

(I) The parent was 18 years of age or older.

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51 The victim was under 18 years of age or the parent (II)52 believed the victim to be under 18 years of age. 53 54 If the presumption is not rebutted after the convicted parent is 55 advised by the court that the presumption exists, shared 56 parental responsibility, including time-sharing with the child, 57 and decisions made regarding the child, may not be granted to 58 the convicted parent. However, the convicted parent is not 59 relieved of any obligation to provide financial support. If the court determines that shared parental responsibility would be 60 detrimental to the child, it may order sole parental 61 responsibility and make such arrangements for time-sharing as 62 specified in the parenting plan as will best protect the child 63 64 or abused spouse from further harm. Whether or not there is a 65 conviction of any offense of domestic violence or child abuse or 66 the existence of an injunction for protection against domestic violence, the court shall consider evidence of domestic violence 67 or child abuse as evidence of detriment to the child. 68 69 3. In ordering shared parental responsibility, the court 70 may consider the expressed desires of the parents and may grant 71 to one party the ultimate responsibility over specific aspects 72 of the child's welfare or may divide those responsibilities 73 between the parties based on the best interests of the child.

74 Areas of responsibility may include education, health care, and

75

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any other responsibilities that the court finds unique to a

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76 particular family. 77 The court shall order sole parental responsibility for 4. 78 a minor child to one parent, with or without time-sharing with 79 the other parent if it is in the best interests of the minor 80 child. 5. There is a rebuttable presumption against granting 81 82 time-sharing with a minor child if a parent has been convicted of or had adjudication withheld for an offense enumerated in s. 83 84 943.0435(1)(h)1.a., and at the time of the offense: The parent was 18 years of age or older. 85 a. 86 b. The victim was under 18 years of age or the parent believed the victim to be under 18 years of age. 87 88 89 A parent may rebut the presumption upon a specific finding in 90 writing by the court that the parent poses no significant risk 91 of harm to the child and that time-sharing is in the best interests of the minor child. If the presumption is rebutted, 92 the court shall consider all time-sharing factors in subsection 93 (3) when developing a time-sharing schedule. 94 95 6. Access to records and information pertaining to a minor child, including, but not limited to, medical, dental, and 96 school records, may not be denied to either parent. Full rights 97 98 under this subparagraph apply to either parent unless a court 99 order specifically revokes these rights, including any restrictions on these rights as provided in a domestic violence 100 Page 4 of 9

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101 injunction. A parent having rights under this subparagraph has 102 the same rights upon request as to form, substance, and manner 103 of access as are available to the other parent of a child, 104 including, without limitation, the right to in-person 105 communication with medical, dental, and education providers.

(3) For purposes of establishing or modifying parental 106 107 responsibility and creating, developing, approving, or modifying 108 a parenting plan, including a time-sharing schedule, which 109 governs each parent's relationship with his or her minor child and the relationship between each parent with regard to his or 110 her minor child, the best interest of the child shall be the 111 primary consideration. A determination of parental 112 113 responsibility, a parenting plan, or a time-sharing schedule may 114 not be modified without a showing of a substantial and  $_{ au}$ 115 material, and unanticipated change in circumstances and a 116 determination that the modification is in the best interests of 117 the child. For purposes of the modification of a parenting plan 118 and time-sharing schedule, a parent's permanent relocation from 119 a residence that is more than 50 miles away from the primary residence of the child to a residence within 50 miles of the 120 primary residence of the child is presumed to be a substantial 121 122 and material change in circumstances for which modification is 123 allowed as long as there is a determination by the court that 124 modification is in the best interests of the child. 125 Determination of the best interests of the child shall be made

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126 by evaluating all of the factors affecting the welfare and 127 interests of the particular minor child and the circumstances of 128 that family, including, but not limited to:

(a) The demonstrated capacity and disposition of each
parent to facilitate and encourage a close and continuing
parent-child relationship, to honor the time-sharing schedule,
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.

(c) The demonstrated capacity and disposition of each parent to determine, consider, and act upon the needs of the child as opposed to the needs or desires of the parent.

(d) The length of time the child has lived in a stable, satisfactory environment and the desirability of maintaining continuity.

(e) The geographic viability of the parenting plan, with special attention paid to the needs of school-age children and the amount of time to be spent traveling to effectuate the parenting plan. This factor does not create a presumption for or against relocation of either parent with a child.

147

(f) The moral fitness of the parents.

148

(g) The mental and physical health of the parents.

- (h) The home, school, and community record of the child.
- (i) The reasonable preference of the child, if the court

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151 deems the child to be of sufficient intelligence, understanding, 152 and experience to express a preference.

(j) The demonstrated knowledge, capacity, and disposition of each parent to be informed of the circumstances of the minor child, including, but not limited to, the child's friends, teachers, medical care providers, daily activities, and favorite things.

(k) The demonstrated capacity and disposition of each parent to provide a consistent routine for the child, such as discipline, and daily schedules for homework, meals, and bedtime.

(1) The demonstrated capacity of each parent to communicate with and keep the other parent informed of issues and activities regarding the minor child, and the willingness of each parent to adopt a unified front on all major issues when dealing with the child.

167 Evidence of domestic violence, sexual violence, child (m) 168 abuse, child abandonment, or child neglect, regardless of 169 whether a prior or pending action relating to those issues has 170 been brought. If the court accepts evidence of prior or pending actions regarding domestic violence, sexual violence, child 171 172 abuse, child abandonment, or child neglect, the court must 173 specifically acknowledge in writing that such evidence was 174 considered when evaluating the best interests of the child. 175 Evidence that either parent has knowingly provided (n)

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176 false information to the court regarding any prior or pending 177 action regarding domestic violence, sexual violence, child 178 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.

187 (q) The demonstrated capacity and disposition of each 188 parent to maintain an environment for the child which is free 189 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 to the child.

(s) The developmental stages and needs of the child and the demonstrated capacity and disposition of each parent to meet the child's developmental needs.

(t) Any other factor that is relevant to the determinationof a specific parenting plan, including the time-sharing

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FLORIDA	HOUSE	OF REP	RESENT	ATIVES
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202		Section	2.	This	act	shall	take	effect	July	1,	2023.	
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