

State of South Dakota

NINETY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2017

666Y0623

HOUSE BILL NO. 1203

Introduced by: Representative Pischke and Senator Jensen (Phil)

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the consideration of
2 joint physical custody of a minor.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. That § 25-4A-26 be repealed.

5 ~~— 25-4A-26. Nothing in §§ 25-4A-21 to 25-4A-27, inclusive, creates a presumption of joint~~
6 ~~physical custody. The court shall determine the appropriate physical care, custody, and control~~
7 ~~of a minor child based on a determination of the best interests of the child.~~

8 Section 2. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

9 If joint legal custody is awarded, pursuant to § 25-5-7.1, there shall be a rebuttable
10 presumption that both parents have joint physical custody of their children. Joint physical
11 custody of the children is defined as equal parenting time. The burden of overcoming the
12 presumption rests on the parent challenging the presumption. The presumption may be
13 overcome by demonstrating that joint physical custody would not be in the best interest of the
14 children by weighing the factors set forth in §§ 25-4A-21 to 25-4A-27, inclusive, or by one
15 parent waiving the presumption. The burden of proof necessary to overcome the presumption



1 shall be by a preponderance of the evidence. If the court finds that a party has overcome the
2 presumption in favor of joint physical custody, then the court shall use the best interests of the
3 child to make its determination for custodial arrangements.

4 Section 3. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

5 The court shall require the parents to prepare and submit a parenting plan to the court
6 reflecting parental preferences and agreement on the matters of substance concerning the child's
7 education, upbringing, religious training, medical, and dental care. The parents shall share
8 decision-making authority and responsibility as to the important decisions affecting the child's
9 welfare and if parents are unable to agree, the court may order the parties to submit to a
10 preselected mediator.

11 Section 4. That chapter 25-4A be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

12 A finding by the court that, within the last two years, a parent has abused drugs or alcohol
13 or has a conviction related to possession or distribution of a controlled substance or marijuana,
14 as defined in chapter 22-42; drug paraphernalia, as defined in § 22-42A-3 or 22-42A-4; driving
15 while under the influence, as defined in chapter 32-23; or a substantially similar federal offense
16 creates a rebuttable presumption that joint physical custody is not in the best interests of the
17 child.