

Sixty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1496**

Introduced by

Representatives Kading, Meier, Rohr, Vetter

Senator Luick

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 14-09-00.1 and subsection 1 of section  
2 14-09-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to shared parenting time and  
3 responsibility.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-00.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **14-09-00.1. Definitions.**

8 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

9 1. "Decisionmaking responsibility" means the responsibility to make decisions concerning  
10 the child. The term may refer to decisions on all issues or on specified issues, but not  
11 child support issues.

12 2. "Equal residential responsibility" means each parent has residential responsibility for  
13 the child for an equal amount of time as determined by the court.

14 3. "Extended parenting time" means parenting time between a child and a parent  
15 scheduled by court order to exceed an annual total of 100 overnights.

16 ~~2.4.~~ "Parental rights and responsibilities" means all rights and responsibilities a parent has  
17 concerning the parent's child.

18 ~~3.5.~~ "Parenting plan" means a written plan describing each parent's rights and  
19 responsibilities.

20 ~~4.6.~~ "Parenting schedule" means the schedule of when the child is in the care of each  
21 parent.

22 ~~5.7.~~ "Parenting time" means the time when the child is to be in the care of a parent.

23 ~~6.8.~~ "Primary residential responsibility" means a parent with more than fifty percent of the  
24 residential responsibility.

1        ~~7.9.~~ "Residential responsibility" means a parent's responsibility to provide a home for the  
2        child.

3        ~~8.10.~~ "Shared residential responsibility" means each parent has  
4        residential responsibility for the child in that parent's care for a time that is as close to  
5        fifty percent of the time as can be arranged based on the circumstances but which is  
6        not less than at least thirty-five percent of the time, but not an equal amount of time.

7        **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 14-09-29 of the North Dakota Century  
8        Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9            1.    a.    A court issuing an order that deals with parenting rights and responsibilities of a  
10           child entered under this chapter shall award the parental rights and  
11           responsibilities concerning the child to a person, agency, organization, or  
12           institution as will, in the opinion of the court, promote the best interests and  
13           welfare of the child.

14           b.    Between the mother and father, whether married or unmarried, there is no  
15           presumption as to whom will better promote the best interests and welfare of the  
16           child.

17           c.    In any proceeding to establish or modify a judgment for providing for parenting  
18           time and residential responsibility and subject to the requirements of section  
19           14-09-06.6, if one party has requested shared ~~parenting time and or equal~~  
20           residential responsibility, the court shall consider awarding shared ~~parenting time~~  
21           ~~and or equal~~ residential responsibility and shall articulate in its decision its  
22           rationale for either awarding or denying the request for shared ~~parenting time~~  
23           ~~and or equal residential~~ responsibility.