

October 03, 2013 /**24-7PressRelease**/ -- Connecticut child custody basics

With 3.9 out of every 1,000 people divorcing, according to the Center for Disease Control, the issue of child custody affects several Americans. In Connecticut, the ratio is slightly better with statistics showing 3.1 out of every 1,000 people getting divorced but that still leaves a great many parents and children affected by divorce.

For families with children under the age of 18, the determination of child custody and support can be one of the most emotional portions of the divorce process. Such situations always end up with some loss of time together for parents and children. One way to help make sure that the best interests of the children are met is to understand the types of custody under Connecticut law.

Physical and legal custody

Connecticut statutes require that divorce proceedings outline plans for both legal and physical custody of minor children. Both of these can be awarded jointly or solely depending upon the circumstances.-Physical custody is the determination of where a child will live-Legal custody is the determination of who has the authority to make decisions for a child-Both physical and legal custody can be sole or joint-It is possible for physical custody to be sole and legal custody to be joint or vice versa

Key decisions allowed under legal custody include those related to medical needs or healthcare, where a child attends school, religious services and more.

Joint and sole custody

As stated above, physical custody can be awarded jointly in situations where the children will live with both parents at different times. The amount of time spent with each parent does not need to be completely equal for the custody arrangement to be identified as joint.

Because of the understanding that involvement from both parents is typically in the best interest

of children, the courts prefer joint custody arrangements if possible. In cases involving abuse or other extenuating circumstances, however, sole custody can be awarded.

Decision making about custody plans

Parents are encouraged to make their child custody agreements together but, if that is not able to happen, the court can and will make the decision regarding this. Even in situations where both parents jointly agree to a custody plan, it must be approved by the court before it is considered legal.

Certainly spouses in the midst of a divorce can find it challenging to work together to find amicable solutions to child custody or other topics. If you are facing a divorce, working with an experienced attorney can give you some assistance in how to navigate the process and ensure the most positive outcome for you and your children.

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