

HB 1555 -- Virtual Visitation

Sponsor: Yaeger

This bill requires the parties in a dissolution of marriage proceeding to submit in their proposed parenting plan a specific written schedule for virtual visitation. Each parent, unless otherwise denied by court order, must permit and encourage the other parent to have reasonable and uncensored communications via virtual visitation between a non-custodial parent and a child and between a child and the custodial parent when the child is staying with the non-custodial parent. Virtual visitation is designed to supplement and not replace in-person visitation. "Virtual visitation" is defined as parenting time facilitated by tools such as telephone, e-mail, instant messaging, video conferencing, and any other wired or wireless technologies over the Internet or other communication media.

If the parties cannot agree on whether virtual visitation equipment is reasonably available, the court will make the decision based on the best interest of the child, each parent's ability to handle any additional expenses of virtual visitation, and any other factors the court considers relevant.

The bill also allows a court to grant virtual visitation rights to the grandparents of the child.