

HB 565 -- Child Visitation Rights

Sponsor: Brown (50)

This bill requires the parties in a dissolution of marriage proceeding to submit in their proposed parenting plan a specific written schedule for electronic communication with any children. Each parent, unless otherwise denied by court order, must allow and encourage the other parent to have reasonable and uncensored communications electronically between a noncustodial parent and a child and between a child and the custodial parent when the child is staying with the noncustodial parent. Electronic communication is designed to supplement and not replace in-person visitation. "Electronic communication" is specified as parenting time facilitated by 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 electronic communication 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 for the electronic communication, and any other factors the court considers relevant.

The amount of time electronic communication is used will not be a factor in the calculation of child support, and the court cannot consider the availability of electronic communication as a factor in support of relocating a child out of the state by the custodial parent.