

2019 Shared Parenting Report Card

National Parents Organization conducted a review of the child custody laws of all 50 states and graded them on the degree to which these laws promote shared parenting, the arrangement that research shows is in children’s best interest after divorce or separation. Kentucky received an ‘A’ for its child custody statutes. (Visit sharedparenting.org.)



State Details

State	Grade	Positives	Negatives
Kentucky KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.270 KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.280 KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.315	A	<p>In two major legislative changes, spearheaded by NPO, Kentucky statutes now contain a rebuttable presumption “that joint custody and equally shared parenting time is in the best interest of the child” barring issues of domestic violence and abuse for both temporary and permanent orders.</p> <p>KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.270 KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.280 KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.315</p> <p>For a presumption of equal shared parenting to be defeated, Kentucky statutes require a finding based on a “preponderance of the evidence” and not a mere allegation or filing. KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.270(2)</p> <p>If the presumption of equal parenting time is defeated, courts are required “to maximize the time each parent ... has with the child ... consistent with ensuring the child’s welfare.” KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.270</p> <p>These provisions subsume a shared parenting policy, “friendly parent” factors, and maximum parenting time provisions.</p> <p>The legislative changes NPO led have propelled Kentucky from one of the lowest ranked shared parenting states in 2014 to the top tier.</p>	Kentucky has no explicit provisions for domestic relations courts to deal with a false allegation of abuse to block shared parenting.

How Can Kentucky Improve?

How Does Kentucky Compare to Other States?

Recommendation # 1- Implement False Abuse Allegation Provisions

NPO recommends Kentucky enact provisions for knowingly making a false allegation of abuse as a negative factor for being awarded custody or provide a family-court-based sanction for making such charges.

Summary: State Grades	
Grade	2019
A	2
B	7
C	26
D	14
F	2
Average	C-

Recommendation # 2- Tracking Parenting Time Orders

NPO strongly recommends that the Kentucky legislature require each county court that handles child custody cases to maintain records of the division of parenting time, tracked by overnights or equivalent, for all cases of divorce involving minor children and for paternity cases, and to compile and publish these statistics annually, separating marital from non-marital cases and agreed judgments from court-imposed judgments.

About NPO

National Parents Organization seeks to promote children's wellbeing by making equal shared parenting the norm when parents are living apart. This is the separated parenting arrangement that research shows is typically in children's best interest.

Join National Parents Organization to help achieve its goals.

For more information, visit nationalparentsorganization.org

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