

**2SSB 5470** - H COMM AMD  
By By Committee on Judiciary

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 4/9/2007**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 **"PART I - Intent**

4 **Sec. 101.** RCW 26.09.002 and 1987 c 460 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Parents have the responsibility to make decisions and perform  
7 other parental functions necessary for the care and growth of their  
8 minor children. In any proceeding between parents under this  
9 chapter, the best interests of the child shall be the standard by  
10 which the court determines and allocates the parties' parental  
11 responsibilities. The state recognizes the fundamental importance  
12 of the parent-child relationship to the welfare of the child, and  
13 that the relationship between the child and each parent should be  
14 fostered unless inconsistent with the child's best interests.  
15 Residential time and financial support are equally important  
16 components of parenting arrangements. The best interests of the  
17 child are served by a parenting arrangement that best maintains a  
18 child's emotional growth, health and stability, and physical care.  
19 Further, the best interest of the child is ordinarily served when  
20 the existing pattern of interaction between a parent and child is  
21 altered only to the extent necessitated by the changed relationship  
22 of the parents or as required to protect the child from physical,  
23 mental, or emotional harm.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 102.** A new section is added to chapter 26.09  
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 The legislature reaffirms the intent of the current law as  
27 expressed in RCW 26.09.002. However, after review, the legislature

1 finds that there are certain components of the existing law which  
2 do not support the original legislative intent. In order to better  
3 implement the existing legislative intent the legislature finds  
4 that incentives for parties to reduce family conflict and  
5 additional alternative dispute resolution options can assist in  
6 reducing the number of contested trials. Furthermore, the  
7 legislature finds that the identification of domestic violence as  
8 defined in RCW 26.50.010 and the treatment needs of the parties to  
9 dissolutions are necessary to improve outcomes for children. When  
10 judicial officers have the discretion to tailor individualized  
11 resolutions, the legislative intent expressed in RCW 26.09.002 can  
12 more readily be achieved. Judicial officers should have the  
13 discretion and flexibility to assess each case based on the merits  
14 of the individual cases before them.

## 15 **PART II - Family Court Provisions**

16 **Sec. 201.** RCW 2.56.180 and 2005 c 282 s 10 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The administrative office of the courts shall create a  
19 handbook explaining the sections of Washington law pertaining to  
20 the rights and responsibilities of marital partners to each other  
21 and to any children during a marriage and a dissolution of  
22 marriage. The handbook may also be provided in videotape or other  
23 electronic form.

24 (2) The handbook created under subsection (1) of this section  
25 shall be provided by the county auditor when an individual applies  
26 for a marriage license under RCW 26.04.140.

27 (3) The handbook created under subsection (1) of this section  
28 shall also be provided to the petitioner when he or she files a  
29 petition for dissolution, and to the respondent, unless the  
30 respondent did not file a response, notice of appearance, or any  
31 other paper in the case or did not appear in court. The  
32 administrative office of the courts shall on an annual basis  
33 reimburse the counties for each copy of the handbook that is  
34 distributed directly to family law parties under this section,  
35 provided that the county submits documentation of the number of  
36 handbooks distributed on an annual basis.

1       (4) The information contained in the handbook created under  
2 subsection (1) of this section shall be reviewed and updated  
3 annually. The handbook must contain the following information:

4       (a) Information on prenuptial agreements as contracts and as a  
5 means of structuring financial arrangements and other aspects of  
6 the marital relationship;

7       (b) Information on shared parental responsibility for children,  
8 including establishing a residential schedule for the child in the  
9 event of the dissolution of the marriage;

10       (c) Information on notice requirements and standards for  
11 parental relocation;

12       (d) Information on child support for minor children;

13       (e) Information on property rights, including equitable  
14 distribution of assets and premarital and postmarital property  
15 rights;

16       (f) Information on spousal maintenance;

17       (g) Information on domestic violence, child abuse, and neglect,  
18 including penalties;

19       (h) Information on the court process for dissolution;

20       (i) Information on the effects of dissolution on children;

21       (j) Information on community resources that are available to  
22 separating or divorcing persons and their children.

23                   **PART III - Domestic Violence and Child Abuse**

24       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 301.** A new section is added to chapter 26.09  
25 RCW to read as follows:

26       Mediation is generally inappropriate in cases involving domestic  
27 violence and child abuse. In order to effectively identify cases  
28 where issues of domestic violence and child abuse are present and  
29 reduce conflict in dissolution matters: (1) where appropriate  
30 parties shall be provided access to trained domestic violence  
31 advocates; and (2) in cases where a victim requests mediation the  
32 court may make exceptions and permit mediation, so long as the  
33 court makes a finding that mediation is appropriate under the  
34 circumstances and the victim is permitted to have a supporting  
35 person present during the mediation proceedings.

1       **Sec. 302.** RCW 2.56.030 and 2005 c 457 s 7 and 2005 c 282 s 7  
2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3       The administrator for the courts shall, under the supervision  
4 and direction of the chief justice:

5       (1) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in  
6 the offices of the judges, clerks, stenographers, and employees of  
7 the courts and make recommendations, through the chief justice, for  
8 the improvement of the same;

9       (2) Examine the state of the dockets of the courts and determine  
10 the need for assistance by any court;

11       (3) Make recommendations to the chief justice relating to the  
12 assignment of judges where courts are in need of assistance and  
13 carry out the direction of the chief justice as to the assignments  
14 of judges to counties and districts where the courts are in need of  
15 assistance;

16       (4) Collect and compile statistical and other data and make  
17 reports of the business transacted by the courts and transmit the  
18 same to the chief justice to the end that proper action may be  
19 taken in respect thereto;

20       (5) Prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations  
21 necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system  
22 and make recommendations in respect thereto;

23       (6) Collect statistical and other data and make reports relating  
24 to the expenditure of public moneys, state and local, for the  
25 maintenance and operation of the judicial system and the offices  
26 connected therewith;

27       (7) Obtain reports from clerks of courts in accordance with law  
28 or rules adopted by the supreme court of this state on cases and  
29 other judicial business in which action has been delayed beyond  
30 periods of time specified by law or rules of court and make report  
31 thereof to supreme court of this state;

32       (8) Act as secretary of the judicial conference referred to in  
33 RCW 2.56.060;

34       (9) Submit annually, as of February 1st, to the chief justice,  
35 a report of the activities of the administrator's office for the  
36 preceding calendar year including activities related to courthouse  
37 security;

38       (10) Administer programs and standards for the training and  
39 education of judicial personnel;

1 (11) Examine the need for new superior court and district court  
2 judge positions under an objective workload analysis. The results  
3 of the objective workload analysis shall be reviewed by the board  
4 for judicial administration which shall make recommendations to the  
5 legislature. It is the intent of the legislature that an objective  
6 workload analysis become the basis for creating additional district  
7 and superior court positions, and recommendations should address  
8 that objective;

9 (12) Provide staff to the judicial retirement account plan under  
10 chapter 2.14 RCW;

11 (13) Attend to such other matters as may be assigned by the  
12 supreme court of this state;

13 (14) Within available funds, develop a curriculum for a general  
14 understanding of child development, placement, and treatment  
15 resources, as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of  
16 relevant statutes including chapters 13.32A, 13.34, and 13.40 RCW,  
17 cases, court rules, interviewing skills, and special needs of the  
18 abused or neglected child. This curriculum shall be completed and  
19 made available to all juvenile court judges, court personnel, and  
20 service providers and be updated yearly to reflect changes in  
21 statutes, court rules, or case law;

22 (15) Develop, in consultation with the entities set forth in RCW  
23 2.56.150(3), a comprehensive statewide curriculum for persons who  
24 act as guardians ad litem under Title 13 or 26 RCW. The curriculum  
25 shall be made available July 1, (~~1997~~) 2008, and include  
26 specialty sections on child development, child sexual abuse, child  
27 physical abuse, child neglect, domestic violence, clinical and  
28 forensic investigative and interviewing techniques, family  
29 reconciliation and mediation services, and relevant statutory and  
30 legal requirements. The curriculum shall be made available to all  
31 superior court judges, court personnel, and all persons who act as  
32 guardians ad litem;

33 (16) Develop a curriculum for a general understanding of crimes  
34 of malicious harassment, as well as specific legal skills and  
35 knowledge of RCW 9A.36.080, relevant cases, court rules, and the  
36 special needs of malicious harassment victims. This curriculum  
37 shall be made available to all superior court and court of appeals  
38 judges and to all justices of the supreme court;

1 (17) Develop, in consultation with the criminal justice training  
2 commission and the commissions established under chapters 43.113,  
3 43.115, and 43.117 RCW, a curriculum for a general understanding of  
4 ethnic and cultural diversity and its implications for working with  
5 youth of color and their families. The curriculum shall be  
6 available to all superior court judges and court commissioners  
7 assigned to juvenile court, and other court personnel. Ethnic and  
8 cultural diversity training shall be provided annually so as to  
9 incorporate cultural sensitivity and awareness into the daily  
10 operation of juvenile courts statewide;

11 (18) Authorize the use of closed circuit television and other  
12 electronic equipment in judicial proceedings. The administrator  
13 shall promulgate necessary standards and procedures and shall  
14 provide technical assistance to courts as required;

15 (19) Develop a Washington family law handbook in accordance with  
16 RCW 2.56.180;

17 (20) Administer state funds for improving the operation of the  
18 courts and provide support for court coordinating councils, under  
19 the direction of the board for judicial administration;

20 (21)(a) Administer and distribute amounts appropriated from the  
21 equal justice subaccount under RCW 43.08.250(2) for district court  
22 judges' and qualifying elected municipal court judges' salary  
23 contributions. The administrator for the courts shall develop a  
24 distribution formula for these amounts that does not differentiate  
25 between district and elected municipal court judges.

26 (b) A city qualifies for state contribution of elected municipal  
27 court judges' salaries under (a) of this subsection if:

28 (i) The judge is serving in an elected position;

29 (ii) The city has established by ordinance that a full-time  
30 judge is compensated at a rate equivalent to at least ninety-five  
31 percent, but not more than one hundred percent, of a district court  
32 judge salary or for a part-time judge on a pro rata basis the same  
33 equivalent; and

34 (iii) The city has certified to the office of the administrator  
35 for the courts that the conditions in (b)(i) and (ii) of this  
36 subsection have been met.

37 **Sec. 303.** RCW 26.09.191 and 2004 c 38 s 12 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:

1 (1) The permanent parenting plan shall not require mutual  
2 decision- making or designation of a dispute resolution process  
3 other than court action if it is found that a parent has engaged in  
4 any of the following conduct: (a) Willful abandonment that  
5 continues for an extended period of time or substantial refusal to  
6 perform parenting functions; (b) physical, sexual, or a pattern of  
7 emotional abuse of a child; or (c) a history of acts of domestic  
8 violence as defined in RCW 26.50.010(1) or an assault or sexual  
9 assault which causes grievous bodily harm or the fear of such harm.

10 (2)(a) The parent's residential time with the child shall be  
11 limited if it is found that the parent has engaged in any of the  
12 following conduct: (i) Willful abandonment that continues for an  
13 extended period of time or substantial refusal to perform parenting  
14 functions; (ii) physical, sexual, or a pattern of emotional abuse  
15 of a child; (iii) a history of acts of domestic violence as defined  
16 in RCW 26.50.010(1) or an assault or sexual assault which causes  
17 grievous bodily harm or the fear of such harm; or (iv) the parent  
18 has been convicted as an adult of a sex offense under:

19 (A) RCW 9A.44.076 if, because of the difference in age between  
20 the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under  
21 (d) of this subsection;

22 (B) RCW 9A.44.079 if, because of the difference in age between  
23 the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under  
24 (d) of this subsection;

25 (C) RCW 9A.44.086 if, because of the difference in age between  
26 the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under  
27 (d) of this subsection;

28 (D) RCW 9A.44.089;

29 (E) RCW 9A.44.093;

30 (F) RCW 9A.44.096;

31 (G) RCW 9A.64.020 (1) or (2) if, because of the difference in  
32 age between the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption  
33 exists under (d) of this subsection;

34 (H) Chapter 9.68A RCW;

35 (I) Any predecessor or antecedent statute for the offenses  
36 listed in (a)(iv)(A) through (H) of this subsection;

37 (J) Any statute from any other jurisdiction that describes an  
38 offense analogous to the offenses listed in (a)(iv)(A) through (H)  
39 of this subsection.

1 This subsection (2)(a) shall not apply when (c) or (d) of this  
2 subsection applies.

3 (b) The parent's residential time with the child shall be  
4 limited if it is found that the parent resides with a person who  
5 has engaged in any of the following conduct: (i) Physical, sexual,  
6 or a pattern of emotional abuse of a child; (ii) a history of acts  
7 of domestic violence as defined in RCW 26.50.010(1) or an assault  
8 or sexual assault that causes grievous bodily harm or the fear of  
9 such harm; or (iii) the person has been convicted as an adult or as  
10 a juvenile has been adjudicated of a sex offense under:

11 (A) RCW 9A.44.076 if, because of the difference in age between  
12 the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under  
13 (e) of this subsection;

14 (B) RCW 9A.44.079 if, because of the difference in age between  
15 the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under  
16 (e) of this subsection;

17 (C) RCW 9A.44.086 if, because of the difference in age between  
18 the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under  
19 (e) of this subsection;

20 (D) RCW 9A.44.089;

21 (E) RCW 9A.44.093;

22 (F) RCW 9A.44.096;

23 (G) RCW 9A.64.020 (1) or (2) if, because of the difference in  
24 age between the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption  
25 exists under (e) of this subsection;

26 (H) Chapter 9.68A RCW;

27 (I) Any predecessor or antecedent statute for the offenses  
28 listed in (b)(iii)(A) through (H) of this subsection;

29 (J) Any statute from any other jurisdiction that describes an  
30 offense analogous to the offenses listed in (b)(iii)(A) through (H)  
31 of this subsection.

32 This subsection (2)(b) shall not apply when (c) or (e) of this  
33 subsection applies.

34 (c) If a parent has been found to be a sexual predator under  
35 chapter 71.09 RCW or under an analogous statute of any other  
36 jurisdiction, the court shall restrain the parent from contact with  
37 a child that would otherwise be allowed under this chapter. If a  
38 parent resides with an adult or a juvenile who has been found to be  
39 a sexual predator under chapter 71.09 RCW or under an analogous



1 statute of any other jurisdiction, the court shall restrain the  
2 parent from contact with the parent's child except contact that  
3 occurs outside that person's presence.

4 (d) There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent who has been  
5 convicted as an adult of a sex offense listed in (d)(i) through  
6 (ix) of this subsection poses a present danger to a child. Unless  
7 the parent rebuts this presumption, the court shall restrain the  
8 parent from contact with a child that would otherwise be allowed  
9 under this chapter:

10 (i) RCW 9A.64.020 (1) or (2), provided that the person convicted  
11 was at least five years older than the other person;

12 (ii) RCW 9A.44.073;

13 (iii) RCW 9A.44.076, provided that the person convicted was at  
14 least eight years older than the victim;

15 (iv) RCW 9A.44.079, provided that the person convicted was at  
16 least eight years older than the victim;

17 (v) RCW 9A.44.083;

18 (vi) RCW 9A.44.086, provided that the person convicted was at  
19 least eight years older than the victim;

20 (vii) RCW 9A.44.100;

21 (viii) Any predecessor or antecedent statute for the offenses  
22 listed in (d)(i) through (vii) of this subsection;

23 (ix) Any statute from any other jurisdiction that describes an  
24 offense analogous to the offenses listed in (d)(i) through (vii) of  
25 this subsection.

26 (e) There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent who resides  
27 with a person who, as an adult, has been convicted, or as a  
28 juvenile has been adjudicated, of the sex offenses listed in (e)(i)  
29 through (ix) of this subsection places a child at risk of abuse or  
30 harm when that parent exercises residential time in the presence of  
31 the convicted or adjudicated person. Unless the parent rebuts the  
32 presumption, the court shall restrain the parent from contact with  
33 the parent's child except for contact that occurs outside of the  
34 convicted or adjudicated person's presence:

35 (i) RCW 9A.64.020 (1) or (2), provided that the person convicted  
36 was at least five years older than the other person;

37 (ii) RCW 9A.44.073;

38 (iii) RCW 9A.44.076, provided that the person convicted was at  
39 least eight years older than the victim;

1 (iv) RCW 9A.44.079, provided that the person convicted was at  
2 least eight years older than the victim;

3 (v) RCW 9A.44.083;

4 (vi) RCW 9A.44.086, provided that the person convicted was at  
5 least eight years older than the victim;

6 (vii) RCW 9A.44.100;

7 (viii) Any predecessor or antecedent statute for the offenses  
8 listed in (e)(i) through (vii) of this subsection;

9 (ix) Any statute from any other jurisdiction that describes an  
10 offense analogous to the offenses listed in (e)(i) through (vii) of  
11 this subsection.

12 (f) The presumption established in (d) of this subsection may be  
13 rebutted only after a written finding that:

14 (i) If the child was not the victim of the sex offense committed  
15 by the parent requesting residential time, (A) contact between the  
16 child and the offending parent is appropriate and poses minimal  
17 risk to the child, and (B) the offending parent has successfully  
18 engaged in treatment for sex offenders or is engaged in and making  
19 progress in such treatment, if any was ordered by a court, and the  
20 treatment provider believes such contact is appropriate and poses  
21 minimal risk to the child; or

22 (ii) If the child was the victim of the sex offense committed by  
23 the parent requesting residential time, (A) contact between the  
24 child and the offending parent is appropriate and poses minimal  
25 risk to the child, (B) if the child is in or has been in therapy  
26 for victims of sexual abuse, the child's counselor believes such  
27 contact between the child and the offending parent is in the  
28 child's best interest, and (C) the offending parent has  
29 successfully engaged in treatment for sex offenders or is engaged  
30 in and making progress in such treatment, if any was ordered by a  
31 court, and the treatment provider believes such contact is  
32 appropriate and poses minimal risk to the child.

33 (g) The presumption established in (e) of this subsection may be  
34 rebutted only after a written finding that:

35 (i) If the child was not the victim of the sex offense committed  
36 by the person who is residing with the parent requesting  
37 residential time, (A) contact between the child and the parent  
38 residing with the convicted or adjudicated person is appropriate  
39 and that parent is able to protect the child in the presence of the

1 convicted or adjudicated person, and (B) the convicted or  
2 adjudicated person has successfully engaged in treatment for sex  
3 offenders or is engaged in and making progress in such treatment,  
4 if any was ordered by a court, and the treatment provider believes  
5 such contact is appropriate and poses minimal risk to the child; or

6 (ii) If the child was the victim of the sex offense committed by  
7 the person who is residing with the parent requesting residential  
8 time, (A) contact between the child and the parent in the presence  
9 of the convicted or adjudicated person is appropriate and poses  
10 minimal risk to the child, (B) if the child is in or has been in  
11 therapy for victims of sexual abuse, the child's counselor believes  
12 such contact between the child and the parent residing with the  
13 convicted or adjudicated person in the presence of the convicted or  
14 adjudicated person is in the child's best interest, and (C) the  
15 convicted or adjudicated person has successfully engaged in  
16 treatment for sex offenders or is engaged in and making progress in  
17 such treatment, if any was ordered by a court, and the treatment  
18 provider believes contact between the parent and child in the  
19 presence of the convicted or adjudicated person is appropriate and  
20 poses minimal risk to the child.

21 (h) If the court finds that the parent has met the burden of  
22 rebutting the presumption under (f) of this subsection, the court  
23 may allow a parent who has been convicted as an adult of a sex  
24 offense listed in (d)(i) through (ix) of this subsection to have  
25 residential time with the child supervised by a neutral and  
26 independent adult and pursuant to an adequate plan for supervision  
27 of such residential time. The court shall not approve of a  
28 supervisor for contact between the child and the parent unless the  
29 court finds, based on the evidence, that the supervisor is willing  
30 and capable of protecting the child from harm. The court shall  
31 revoke court approval of the supervisor upon finding, based on the  
32 evidence, that the supervisor has failed to protect the child or is  
33 no longer willing or capable of protecting the child.

34 (i) If the court finds that the parent has met the burden of  
35 rebutting the presumption under (g) of this subsection, the court  
36 may allow a parent residing with a person who has been adjudicated  
37 as a juvenile of a sex offense listed in (e)(i) through (ix) of  
38 this subsection to have residential time with the child in the  
39 presence of the person adjudicated as a juvenile, supervised by a

1 neutral and independent adult and pursuant to an adequate plan for  
2 supervision of such residential time. The court shall not approve  
3 of a supervisor for contact between the child and the parent unless  
4 the court finds, based on the evidence, that the supervisor is  
5 willing and capable of protecting the child from harm. The court  
6 shall revoke court approval of the supervisor upon finding, based  
7 on the evidence, that the supervisor has failed to protect the  
8 child or is no longer willing or capable of protecting the child.

9 (j) If the court finds that the parent has met the burden of  
10 rebutting the presumption under (g) of this subsection, the court  
11 may allow a parent residing with a person who, as an adult, has  
12 been convicted of a sex offense listed in (e)(i) through (ix) of  
13 this subsection to have residential time with the child in the  
14 presence of the convicted person supervised by a neutral and  
15 independent adult and pursuant to an adequate plan for supervision  
16 of such residential time. The court shall not approve of a  
17 supervisor for contact between the child and the parent unless the  
18 court finds, based on the evidence, that the supervisor is willing  
19 and capable of protecting the child from harm. The court shall  
20 revoke court approval of the supervisor upon finding, based on the  
21 evidence, that the supervisor has failed to protect the child or is  
22 no longer willing or capable of protecting the child.

23 (k) A court shall not order unsupervised contact between the  
24 offending parent and a child of the offending parent who was  
25 sexually abused by that parent. A court may order unsupervised  
26 contact between the offending parent and a child who was not  
27 sexually abused by the parent after the presumption under (d) of  
28 this subsection has been rebutted and supervised residential time  
29 has occurred for at least two years with no further arrests or  
30 convictions of sex offenses involving children under chapter 9A.44  
31 RCW, RCW 9A.64.020, or chapter 9.68A RCW and (i) the sex offense of  
32 the offending parent was not committed against a child of the  
33 offending parent, and (ii) the court finds that unsupervised  
34 contact between the child and the offending parent is appropriate  
35 and poses minimal risk to the child, after consideration of the  
36 testimony of a state-certified therapist, mental health counselor,  
37 or social worker with expertise in treating child sexual abuse  
38 victims who has supervised at least one period of residential time  
39 between the parent and the child, and after consideration of

1 evidence of the offending parent's compliance with community  
2 supervision requirements, if any. If the offending parent was not  
3 ordered by a court to participate in treatment for sex offenders,  
4 then the parent shall obtain a psychosexual evaluation conducted by  
5 a certified sex offender treatment provider or a certified  
6 affiliate sex offender treatment provider indicating that the  
7 offender has the lowest likelihood of risk to reoffend before the  
8 court grants unsupervised contact between the parent and a child.

9 (l) A court may order unsupervised contact between the parent  
10 and a child which may occur in the presence of a juvenile  
11 adjudicated of a sex offense listed in (e)(i) through (ix) of this  
12 subsection who resides with the parent after the presumption under  
13 (e) of this subsection has been rebutted and supervised residential  
14 time has occurred for at least two years during which time the  
15 adjudicated juvenile has had no further arrests, adjudications, or  
16 convictions of sex offenses involving children under chapter 9A.44  
17 RCW, RCW 9A.64.020, or chapter 9.68A RCW, and (i) the court finds  
18 that unsupervised contact between the child and the parent that may  
19 occur in the presence of the adjudicated juvenile is appropriate  
20 and poses minimal risk to the child, after consideration of the  
21 testimony of a state-certified therapist, mental health counselor,  
22 or social worker with expertise in treatment of child sexual abuse  
23 victims who has supervised at least one period of residential time  
24 between the parent and the child in the presence of the adjudicated  
25 juvenile, and after consideration of evidence of the adjudicated  
26 juvenile's compliance with community supervision or parole  
27 requirements, if any. If the adjudicated juvenile was not ordered  
28 by a court to participate in treatment for sex offenders, then the  
29 adjudicated juvenile shall obtain a psychosexual evaluation  
30 conducted by a certified sex offender treatment provider or a  
31 certified affiliate sex offender treatment provider indicating that  
32 the adjudicated juvenile has the lowest likelihood of risk to  
33 reoffend before the court grants unsupervised contact between the  
34 parent and a child which may occur in the presence of the  
35 adjudicated juvenile who is residing with the parent.

36 (m)(i) The limitations imposed by the court under (a) or (b) of  
37 this subsection shall be reasonably calculated to protect the child  
38 from the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or harm that could  
39 result if the child has contact with the parent requesting

1 residential time. The limitations shall also be reasonably  
2 calculated to provide for the safety of the parent who may be at  
3 risk of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or harm that could  
4 result if the parent has contact with the parent requesting  
5 residential time. The limitations the court may impose include,  
6 but are not limited to: Supervised contact between the child and  
7 the parent or completion of relevant counseling or treatment. If  
8 the court expressly finds based on the evidence that limitations on  
9 the residential time with the child will not adequately protect the  
10 child from the harm or abuse that could result if the child has  
11 contact with the parent requesting residential time, the court  
12 shall restrain the parent requesting residential time from all  
13 contact with the child.

14 (ii) The court shall not enter an order under (a) of this  
15 subsection allowing a parent to have contact with a child if the  
16 parent has been found by clear and convincing evidence in a civil  
17 action or by a preponderance of the evidence in a dependency action  
18 to have sexually abused the child, except upon recommendation by an  
19 evaluator or therapist for the child that the child is ready for  
20 contact with the parent and will not be harmed by the contact. The  
21 court shall not enter an order allowing a parent to have contact  
22 with the child in the offender's presence if the parent resides  
23 with a person who has been found by clear and convincing evidence  
24 in a civil action or by a preponderance of the evidence in a  
25 dependency action to have sexually abused a child, unless the court  
26 finds that the parent accepts that the person engaged in the  
27 harmful conduct and the parent is willing to and capable of  
28 protecting the child from harm from the person.

29 (iii) If the court limits residential time under (a) or (b) of  
30 this subsection to require supervised contact between the child and  
31 the parent, the court shall not approve of a supervisor for contact  
32 between a child and a parent who has engaged in physical, sexual,  
33 or a pattern of emotional abuse of the child unless the court finds  
34 based upon the evidence that the supervisor accepts that the  
35 harmful conduct occurred and is willing to and capable of  
36 protecting the child from harm. The court shall revoke court  
37 approval of the supervisor upon finding, based on the evidence,  
38 that the supervisor has failed to protect the child or is no longer  
39 willing to or capable of protecting the child.

1 (n) If the court expressly finds based on the evidence that  
2 contact between the parent and the child will not cause physical,  
3 sexual, or emotional abuse or harm to the child and that the  
4 probability that the parent's or other person's harmful or abusive  
5 conduct will recur is so remote that it would not be in the child's  
6 best interests to apply the limitations of (a), (b), and (m)(i) and  
7 (iii) of this subsection, or if the court expressly finds that the  
8 parent's conduct did not have an impact on the child, then the  
9 court need not apply the limitations of (a), (b), and (m)(i) and  
10 (iii) of this subsection. The weight given to the existence of a  
11 protection order issued under chapter 26.50 RCW as to domestic  
12 violence is within the discretion of the court. This subsection  
13 shall not apply when (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k),  
14 (l), and (m)(ii) of this subsection apply.

15 (3) A parent's involvement or conduct may have an adverse effect  
16 on the child's best interests, and the court may preclude or limit  
17 any provisions of the parenting plan, if any of the following  
18 factors exist:

19 (a) A parent's neglect or substantial nonperformance of  
20 parenting functions;

21 (b) A long-term emotional or physical impairment which  
22 interferes with the parent's performance of parenting functions as  
23 defined in RCW 26.09.004;

24 (c) A long-term impairment resulting from drug, alcohol, or  
25 other substance abuse that interferes with the performance of  
26 parenting functions;

27 (d) The absence or substantial impairment of emotional ties  
28 between the parent and the child;

29 (e) The abusive use of conflict by the parent which creates the  
30 danger of serious damage to the child's psychological development;

31 (f) A parent has withheld from the other parent access to the  
32 child for a protracted period without good cause; or

33 (g) Such other factors or conduct as the court expressly finds  
34 adverse to the best interests of the child.

35 (4) In cases involving allegations of limiting factors under  
36 subsection (2)(a)(ii) and (iii) of this section, both parties shall  
37 be screened to determine the appropriateness of a comprehensive  
38 assessment regarding the impact of the limiting factor on the child  
39 and the parties.

1       (5) In entering a permanent parenting plan, the court shall not  
2 draw any presumptions from the provisions of the temporary  
3 parenting plan.

4       (~~(5)~~) (6) In determining whether any of the conduct described  
5 in this section has occurred, the court shall apply the civil rules  
6 of evidence, proof, and procedure.

7       (~~(6)~~) (7) For the purposes of this section, a parent's child  
8 means that parent's natural child, adopted child, or stepchild.

9       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 304.** A new section is added to chapter 26.09  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11       Before entering a permanent parenting plan, the court shall  
12 determine the existence of any information and proceedings relevant  
13 to the placement of the child that are available in the judicial  
14 information system and databases.

15       **Sec. 305.** RCW 26.12.177 and 2005 c 282 s 30 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17       (1) All guardians ad litem and investigators appointed under  
18 this title must comply with the training requirements established  
19 under RCW 2.56.030(15), prior to their appointment in cases under  
20 Title 26 RCW, except that volunteer guardians ad litem or court-  
21 appointed special advocates may comply with alternative training  
22 requirements approved by the administrative office of the courts  
23 that meet or exceed the statewide requirements. In cases involving  
24 allegations of limiting factors under RCW 26.09.191, the guardians  
25 ad litem and investigators appointed under this title must have  
26 additional relevant training under RCW 2.56.030(15) and as  
27 recommended under section 306 of this act, when it is available.

28       (2)(a) Each guardian ad litem program for compensated guardians  
29 ad litem shall establish a rotational registry system for the  
30 appointment of guardians ad litem and investigators under this  
31 title. If a judicial district does not have a program the court  
32 shall establish the rotational registry system. Guardians ad litem  
33 and investigators under this title shall be selected from the  
34 registry except in exceptional circumstances as determined and  
35 documented by the court. The parties may make a joint  
36 recommendation for the appointment of a guardian ad litem from the  
37 registry.



1 (b) In judicial districts with a population over one hundred  
2 thousand, a list of three names shall be selected from the registry  
3 and given to the parties along with the background information as  
4 specified in RCW 26.12.175(3), including their hourly rate for  
5 services. Each party may, within three judicial days, strike one  
6 name from the list. If more than one name remains on the list, the  
7 court shall make the appointment from the names on the list. In  
8 the event all three names are stricken the person whose name  
9 appears next on the registry shall be appointed.

10 (c) If a party reasonably believes that the appointed guardian  
11 ad litem lacks the necessary expertise for the proceeding, charges  
12 an hourly rate higher than what is reasonable for the particular  
13 proceeding, or has a conflict of interest, the party may, within  
14 three judicial days from the appointment, move for substitution of  
15 the appointed guardian ad litem by filing a motion with the court.

16 (d) Under this section, within either registry referred to in  
17 (a) of this subsection, a subregistry may be created that consists  
18 of guardians ad litem under contract with the department of social  
19 and health services' division of child support. Guardians ad litem  
20 on such a subregistry shall be selected and appointed in state-  
21 initiated paternity cases only.

22 (e) The superior court shall remove any person from the guardian  
23 ad litem registry who misrepresents his or her qualifications  
24 pursuant to a grievance procedure established by the court.

25 (3) The rotational registry system shall not apply to court-  
26 appointed special advocate programs.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 306. A new section is added to chapter 2.53  
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1)(a) The legislature requests that the supreme court convene  
30 and support a task force to establish statewide protocols for  
31 dissolution cases.

32 (b) The task force shall develop: (i) Clear and concise dispute  
33 resolution procedures; (ii) in conjunction with the office of crime  
34 victims advocacy, a sexual assault training curriculum; (iii)  
35 consistent standards for parenting evaluators; and (iv) a domestic  
36 violence training curriculum for individuals making evaluations in  
37 dissolution cases. The task force shall make recommendations

1 concerning specialized evaluators for dissolution cases,  
2 dissolution forms and procedures, and fees.

3 (b) The task force shall also study issues related to: (i) venue  
4 for filing and modifying petitions; and (ii) establishing a program  
5 that would be the initial point of contact for parties in  
6 dissolution cases where parties would be provided information on  
7 the dissolution process and alternatives to dissolution. The task  
8 force shall address issues that include but are not limited to: (i)  
9 whether the program should be required for all parties in  
10 dissolutions; (ii) whether the program should be administered by  
11 the courts or county clerks; (iii) the type and extent of  
12 information provided to parties and how such information should be  
13 delivered.

14 (2) The governor shall appoint the following members of the task  
15 force:

16 (a) A representative of the office of crime victims advocacy;

17 (b) A professor of law specializing in family law;

18 (c) A representative from a statewide domestic violence advocacy  
19 group;

20 (d) A representative from a community sexual assault program;

21 (e) Two noncustodial parents with at least one representing the  
22 interests of low-income noncustodial parents; and

23 (f) Two custodial parents with at least one representing the  
24 interests of low-income custodial parents.

25 (3) The chief justice of the supreme court is requested to  
26 appoint the following members of the task force:

27 (a) Two representatives from the superior court judges  
28 association, including a superior court judge and a court  
29 commissioner who is familiar with dissolution issues;

30 (b) A representative from the administrative office of the  
31 courts;

32 (c) A representative from the Washington state bar association's  
33 family law executive committee;

34 (d) A representative from a qualified legal aid provider that  
35 receives funding from the office of civil legal aid;

36 (e) A representative of the Washington state association of  
37 county clerks; and

38 (f) A guardian ad litem.

1 (4) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from  
2 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

3 (5) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint  
4 one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
5 representatives, with at least one member.

6 (6) Membership of the task force may also include members of the  
7 civil legal aid oversight committee, including but not limited to  
8 the legislative members of the committee.

9 (7) The task force shall carefully consider all input received  
10 from interested organizations and individuals during the task force  
11 process.

12 (8) The task force may form an executive committee, create  
13 subcommittees, designate alternative representatives, and define  
14 other procedures, as needed, for operation of the task force.

15 (9) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed  
16 for travel expenses under RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members,  
17 except those representing an employee or organization, are entitled  
18 to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
19 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

20 (10) The task force shall present preliminary findings and  
21 conclusions to the governor's office, the supreme court, and the  
22 appropriate committees of the legislature by September 1, 2008. A  
23 final report and recommendations, including recommendations for  
24 legislative action, if necessary, shall be completed by December 1,  
25 2008.

26 (11) This section expires June 30, 2009.

27 **PART IV - Additional Services**

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 401.** A new section is added to chapter 26.09  
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 In order to provide judicial officers with better information  
31 and to facilitate decision making which allows for the protection  
32 of children from physical, mental, or emotional harm and in order  
33 to facilitate consistent healthy contact between both parents and  
34 their children:

35 (1) Parties and witnesses who require the assistance of  
36 interpreters shall be provided access to qualified interpreters  
37 pursuant to chapter 2.42 or 2.43 RCW. To the extent practicable

1 and within available resources, interpreters shall also be made  
2 available at dissolution-related proceedings.

3 (2) Parties and witnesses who require literacy assistance shall  
4 be referred to the multipurpose service centers established in  
5 chapter 28B.04 RCW.

6 (3) In matters involving guardian ad litem, the court shall  
7 specify the hourly rate the guardian ad litem may charge for his or  
8 her services, and shall specify the maximum amount the guardian ad  
9 litem may charge without additional review. Counties may, and to  
10 the extent state funding is provided therefor counties shall,  
11 provide indigent parties with guardian ad litem services at a  
12 reduced or waived fee.

13 (4) Parties may request to participate by telephone or  
14 interactive videoconference. The court may allow telephonic or  
15 interactive videoconference participation of one or more parties at  
16 any proceeding in its discretion. The court may also allow  
17 telephonic or interactive videoconference participation of  
18 witnesses.

19 (5) In cases involving domestic violence or child abuse, if  
20 residential time is ordered, the court may:

21 (a) Order exchange of a child to occur in a protected setting;

22 (b) Order residential time supervised by a neutral and  
23 independent adult and pursuant to an adequate plan for supervision  
24 of such residential time. The court shall not approve of a  
25 supervisor for contact between the child and the parent unless the  
26 supervisor is willing to and capable of protecting the child from  
27 harm. The court shall revoke court approval of the supervisor if  
28 the court determines, after a hearing, that the supervisor has  
29 failed to protect the child or is no longer willing or capable of  
30 protecting the child. If the court allows a family or household  
31 member to supervise residential time, the court shall establish  
32 conditions to be followed during residential time.

33 (6) In cases in which the court finds that the parties do not  
34 have a satisfactory history of cooperation or there is a high level  
35 of parental conflict, the court may order the parties to use  
36 supervised visitation and safe exchange centers or alternative safe  
37 locations to facilitate the exercise of residential time.

38 **PART V - Mediation**

1       **Sec. 501.** RCW 26.09.015 and 2005 c 172 s 17 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) In any proceeding under this chapter, the matter may be set  
4 for mediation of the contested issues before or concurrent with the  
5 setting of the matter for hearing. The purpose of the mediation  
6 proceeding shall be to reduce acrimony which may exist between the  
7 parties and to develop an agreement assuring the child's close and  
8 continuing contact with both parents after the marriage is  
9 dissolved. The mediator shall use his or her best efforts to effect  
10 a settlement of the dispute.

11       (2)(a) Each superior court may make available a mediator. The  
12 court shall use the most cost-effective mediation services that are  
13 readily available unless there is good cause to access alternative  
14 providers. The mediator may be a member of the professional staff  
15 of a family court or mental health services agency, or may be any  
16 other person or agency designated by the court. In order to  
17 provide mediation services, the court is not required to institute  
18 a family court.

19       **(b) In any proceeding involving issues relating to residential**  
20 **time or other matters governed by a parenting plan, the matter may**  
21 **be set for mediation of the contested issues before or concurrent**  
22 **with the setting of the matter for hearing. Counties may, and to**  
23 **the extent state funding is provided therefor counties shall,**  
24 **provide both predecree and postdecree mediation at reduced or**  
25 **waived fee to the parties within one year of the filing of the**  
26 **dissolution petition.**

27       (3)(a) Mediation proceedings under this chapter shall be  
28 governed in all respects by chapter 7.07 RCW, except as follows:

29       (i) Mediation communications in postdecree mediations mandated  
30 by a parenting plan are admissible in subsequent proceedings for  
31 the limited purpose of proving:

32       (A) Abuse, neglect, abandonment, exploitation, or unlawful  
33 harassment as defined in RCW 9A.46.020(1), of a child;

34       (B) Abuse or unlawful harassment as defined in RCW 9A.46.020(1),  
35 of a family or household member as defined in RCW 26.50.010(2); or

36       (C) That a parent used or frustrated the dispute resolution  
37 process without good reason for purposes of RCW 26.09.184(3)(d).

38       (ii) If a postdecree mediation-arbitration proceeding is  
39 required pursuant to a parenting plan and the same person acts as

1 both mediator and arbitrator, mediation communications in the  
2 mediation phase of such a proceeding may be admitted during the  
3 arbitration phase, and shall be admissible in the judicial review  
4 of such a proceeding under RCW 26.09.184(3)(e) to the extent  
5 necessary for such review to be effective.

6 (b) None of the exceptions under (a)(i) and (ii) of this  
7 subsection shall subject a mediator to compulsory process to  
8 testify except by court order for good cause shown, taking into  
9 consideration the need for the mediator's testimony and the  
10 interest in the mediator maintaining an appearance of impartiality.  
11 If a mediation communication is not privileged under (a)(i) of this  
12 subsection or that portion of (a)(ii) of this subsection pertaining  
13 to judicial review, only the portion of the communication necessary  
14 for the application of the exception may be admitted, and such  
15 admission of evidence shall not render any other mediation  
16 communication discoverable or admissible except as may be provided  
17 in chapter 7.07 RCW.

18 (4) The mediator shall assess the needs and interests of the  
19 child or children involved in the controversy and may interview the  
20 child or children if the mediator deems such interview appropriate  
21 or necessary.

22 (5) Any agreement reached by the parties as a result of  
23 mediation shall be reported to the court and to counsel for the  
24 parties by the mediator on the day set for mediation or any time  
25 thereafter designated by the court.

## 26 **PART VI - Residential Time**

27 **Sec. 601.** RCW 26.09.187 and 1989 c 375 s 10 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS. The court shall not order a  
30 dispute resolution process, except court action, when it finds that  
31 any limiting factor under RCW 26.09.191 applies, or when it finds  
32 that either parent is unable to afford the cost of the proposed  
33 dispute resolution process. If a dispute resolution process is not  
34 precluded or limited, then in designating such a process the court  
35 shall consider all relevant factors, including:

36 (a) Differences between the parents that would substantially  
37 inhibit their effective participation in any designated process;

1 (b) The parents' wishes or agreements and, if the parents have  
2 entered into agreements, whether the agreements were made knowingly  
3 and voluntarily; and

4 (c) Differences in the parents' financial circumstances that may  
5 affect their ability to participate fully in a given dispute  
6 resolution process.

7 (2) ALLOCATION OF DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY.

8 (a) AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. The court shall approve  
9 agreements of the parties allocating decision-making authority, or  
10 specifying rules in the areas listed in RCW 26.09.184(4)(a), when  
11 it finds that:

12 (i) The agreement is consistent with any limitations on a  
13 parent's decision-making authority mandated by RCW 26.09.191; and

14 (ii) The agreement is knowing and voluntary.

15 (b) SOLE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. The court shall order sole  
16 decision-making to one parent when it finds that:

17 (i) A limitation on the other parent's decision-making authority  
18 is mandated by RCW 26.09.191;

19 (ii) Both parents are opposed to mutual decision making;

20 (iii) One parent is opposed to mutual decision making, and such  
21 opposition is reasonable based on the criteria in (c) of this  
22 subsection;

23 (c) MUTUAL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. Except as provided in (a)  
24 and (b) of this subsection, the court shall consider the following  
25 criteria in allocating decision-making authority:

26 (i) The existence of a limitation under RCW 26.09.191;

27 (ii) The history of participation of each parent in decision  
28 making in each of the areas in RCW 26.09.184(4)(a);

29 (iii) Whether the parents have a demonstrated ability and desire  
30 to cooperate with one another in decision making in each of the  
31 areas in RCW 26.09.184(4)(a); and

32 (iv) The parents' geographic proximity to one another, to the  
33 extent that it affects their ability to make timely mutual  
34 decisions.

35 (3) RESIDENTIAL PROVISIONS.

36 (a) The court shall make residential provisions for each child  
37 which encourage each parent to maintain a loving, stable, and  
38 nurturing relationship with the child, consistent with the child's  
39 developmental level and the family's social and economic

1 circumstances. The child's residential schedule shall be  
2 consistent with RCW 26.09.191. Where the limitations of RCW  
3 26.09.191 are not dispositive of the child's residential schedule,  
4 the court shall consider the following factors:

5 (i) The relative strength, nature, and stability of the child's  
6 relationship with each parent(~~(, including whether a parent has~~  
7 ~~taken greater responsibility for performing parenting functions~~  
8 ~~relating to the daily needs of the child))~~);

9 (ii) The agreements of the parties, provided they were entered  
10 into knowingly and voluntarily;

11 (iii) Each parent's past and potential for future performance of  
12 parenting functions as defined in RCW 26.09.004(3), including  
13 whether a parent has taken greater responsibility for performing  
14 parenting functions relating to the daily needs of the child;

15 (iv) The emotional needs and developmental level of the child;

16 (v) The child's relationship with siblings and with other  
17 significant adults, as well as the child's involvement with his or  
18 her physical surroundings, school, or other significant activities;

19 (vi) The wishes of the parents and the wishes of a child who is  
20 sufficiently mature to express reasoned and independent preferences  
21 as to his or her residential schedule; and

22 (vii) Each parent's employment schedule, and shall make  
23 accommodations consistent with those schedules.

24 Factor (i) shall be given the greatest weight.

25 (b) Where the limitations of RCW 26.09.191 are not dispositive,  
26 the court may order that a child frequently alternate his or her  
27 residence between the households of the parents for brief and  
28 substantially equal intervals of time (~~(only if the court finds the~~  
29 ~~following~~

30 ~~— (i) No limitation exists under RCW 26.09.191;~~

31 ~~— (ii)(A) The parties have agreed to such provisions and the~~  
32 ~~agreement was knowingly and voluntarily entered into; or~~

33 ~~— (B) The parties have a satisfactory history of cooperation and~~  
34 ~~shared performance of parenting functions; the parties are~~  
35 ~~available to each other, especially in geographic proximity, to the~~  
36 ~~extent necessary to ensure their ability to share performance of~~  
37 ~~the parenting functions; and~~

38 ~~— (iii) The provisions are in the best interests of the child))~~ if  
39 such provision is in the best interests of the child. In



1 determining whether such an arrangement is in the best interests of  
2 the child, the court may consider the parties geographic proximity  
3 to the extent necessary to ensure the ability to share performance  
4 of the parenting functions.

5 (c) For any child, residential provisions may contain any  
6 reasonable terms or conditions that facilitate the orderly and  
7 meaningful exercise of residential time by a parent, including but  
8 not limited to requirements of reasonable notice when residential  
9 time will not occur.

10 **Sec. 602.** RCW 26.09.197 and 1987 c 460 s 14 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 After considering the affidavit required by RCW 26.09.194(1) and  
13 other relevant evidence presented, the court shall make a temporary  
14 parenting plan that is in the best interest of the child. In  
15 making this determination, the court shall give particular  
16 consideration to:

17 (1) (~~Which parent has taken greater responsibility during the~~  
18 ~~last twelve months for performing parenting functions relating to~~  
19 ~~the daily needs of the child~~) The relative strength, nature, and  
20 stability of the child's relationship with each parent; and

21 (2) Which parenting arrangements will cause the least disruption  
22 to the child's emotional stability while the action is pending.

23 The court shall also consider the factors used to determine  
24 residential provisions in the permanent parenting plan.

25 **PART VII - Data Tracking**

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 701. A new section is added to chapter 26.09  
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 The parties to dissolution matters shall file with the clerk of  
29 the court the residential time summary report. The summary report  
30 shall be on the form developed by the administrative office of the  
31 courts in consultation with the department of social and health  
32 services division of child support. The parties must complete the  
33 form and file the form with the court order. The clerk of the  
34 court must forward the form to the division of child support on at  
35 least a monthly basis.



1        NEW SECTION. Sec. 803. If specific funding for the purposes of  
2 section 701 of this act, referencing section 701 of this act by  
3 bill or chapter number and section number, is not provided by June  
4 30, 2007, in the omnibus appropriations act, section 701 of this  
5 act is null and void.

6        NEW SECTION. Sec. 804. If specific funding for the purposes of  
7 section 702 of this act, referencing section 702 of this act by  
8 bill or chapter number and section number, is not provided by June  
9 30, 2007, in the omnibus appropriations act, section 702 of this  
10 act is null and void.

11        NEW SECTION. Sec. 805. (1) Section 201 of this act takes  
12 effect January 1, 2008.

13        (2) Section 501 of this act takes effect January 1, 2009."

14        Correct the title.

**EFFECT:** The striking amendment does the following:

- Removes provisions regarding the family liaison program;
- Removes venue provisions;
- Removes the provision stating that parties who mediate within one month of filing for dissolution remain eligible to finalize their dissolution in 90 days;
- Removes the requirement that both parents be screened when one has been convicted of a sex offense (both parties are still screened if there are allegations of abuse);
- Removes the requirement that a safety plan be completed;
- Removes the requirement that the Office of Civil Legal Aid convene the task force if the Supreme Court does not;
- Requires the task force to study issues related to venue and establishing a liaison program that would be the initial point of contact for parties, and requires the task force to address:  
(i) whether the program should be required for all parties; (ii) whether the program should be administered by the courts or county clerks; (iii) the type and extent of information provided to parties and how such information should be delivered;
- Requires the information collected by AOC and DSHS be organized by individual county, rather than judicial officer;
- Prohibits the parties' personal identifying information from being in the report;
- Removes the provision requiring both parties to acknowledge the receipt of information before the court can enter a final dissolution decree; and
- Makes other changes for clarity.