

# Utah Child Custody FAQ

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## Receive Help with Your Child Custody Case in Utah

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Are you looking for a Utah child custody attorney? David Pedrazas has been helping couples in Salt Lake City, Utah going through divorce for **over 15 years**. We are dedicated and committed to educating and helping you make informed decisions. Call The Law Office of David Pedrazas today for a **free case evaluation** at 801-263-7078. We gathered frequently asked questions about child custody below.

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## What is Child Custody Mediation?

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Child custody mediation features both parents and advocates discussing with a third party to determine what is best for the child involved. It ensures that the two parties open up viable discussions. This strategy is characteristically cheaper than going through a court process.

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## Who is a Primary Caretaker?

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A primary caregiver is an individual selected by the court to cater for the child's emotional and physical needs. Such a person is recognized as the custodial parent.

## How Do Family Courts Decide Custody in Utah?

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There are different ways for a court to determine the best custodian. The pivotal guiding principal put into consideration is the child's 'best interest.' The court may supersede parents' suggested plan whenever a child's interests are not put into consideration.

## What Issues are Considered by Utah Family Courts?

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The court reviews many factors to decide on the child/children's best interests. They consider what parents wish to do as well. Additionally, the court may consider the child's preferences. Nonetheless, no single preference, even the child's, is a pivotal deciding factor.

## Can a Third Party Get Custody of a Child?

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Utah family courts give the first preference to parents. Nonetheless, there are cases where non-parents get custody of a child. A particular criterion is employed to govern the process of someone who is not the parent to become a custodial parent or a guardian. For full custody of this nature to get authorized, parents must be abusive or absent.

## What are Some types of Custody Arrangements?

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Various custody structures are available. They start with legal and physical custody of the child.

- **Physical custody** – This arrangement features where a child lives most of the time.
- **Legal Custody** – who make vital decisions regarding the child's welfare.

In most of the cases, the court strives to strike a balance that grants joint custody. However, it is likely that legal and physical obligations can split between the involved parents in diverse ways.

- Sole legal and sole physical
- Joint legal and joint physical
- Split custody
- Joint legal and sole physical

## Do Unmarried Fathers have Custody Rights?

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Fathers have rights. However, they must first establish their paternity.

## Does My Ex Get Visitation if they Stopped Paying Child Support?

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No parent can lose their court-ordered visitation rights even when they do not pay child support.

## What is Parent Time and Visitation?

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Parent Time is the ability of the involved non-custodial parent to spend some quality time with their child.

## Can My Ex Renounce Their Child Custody Right?

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A parent can at any time file a “Voluntary Relinquishment” petition.

## Can My Ex Prevent Me From Visiting My Children?

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No. You have visitation rights as ordered by the court. Nevertheless, there are times when you have to impose those rights to bypass roadblocks set up by your ex.

## When Can My Child Decide Which Parent to Live with?

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Children of any age are allowed to say their preferred parent. The court will look into your child’s preference. Nonetheless, the court will have the final say on which parent is suited to remain or become the custodial parent.

## What is A Parenting Plan, and is it Necessary?

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A parenting plan is described as an agreement between parents on how they will raise and support their child after a separation or divorce. It is a requirement by law in Utah for all custody cases.

## How Do I Change or Modify a Child Custody Order?

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It is possible to file a ‘Petition to Modify’ motion. You should have a compelling reason and should go through the legal process.

## Experienced Child Custody Lawyer in SLC, Utah

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If you are looking for an experienced child custody attorney in Utah, give us a call at the Law Office of David Pedrazas. We are a law firm in Salt Lake City, Utah who has been serving residents for **over 15 years** with divorce and family law issues. **We are voted among the best leading attorneys in Salt Lake City and premier top in Family and Divorce Category.** Give us a call today at 801-263-7078 to schedule a **free case evaluation.**