

AN ACT

relating to possession of or access to a child.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 153.316, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 153.316. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS. The court shall order the following general terms and conditions of possession of a child to apply without regard to the distance between the residence of a parent and the child:

(1) the managing conservator shall surrender the child to the possessory conservator at the beginning of each period of the possessory conservator's possession at the residence of the managing conservator;

(2) if the possessory conservator elects to begin a period of possession at the time the child's school is regularly dismissed, the managing conservator shall surrender the child to the possessory conservator at the beginning of each period of possession at the school in which the child is enrolled;

(3) the possessory conservator shall be ordered to do one of the following:

(A) the possessory conservator shall surrender the child to the managing conservator at the end of each period of possession at the residence of the possessory conservator; or

(B) the possessory conservator shall return the

1 child to the residence of the managing conservator at the end of
2 each period of possession, except that the order shall provide that
3 the possessory conservator shall surrender the child to the
4 managing conservator at the end of each period of possession at the
5 residence of the possessory conservator if:

6 (i) at the time the original order or a
7 modification of an order establishing terms and conditions of
8 possession or access the possessory conservator and the managing
9 conservator lived in the same county, the possessory conservator's
10 county of residence remains the same after the rendition of the
11 order, and the managing conservator's county of residence changes,
12 effective on the date of the change of residence by the managing
13 conservator; or

14 (ii) the possessory conservator and
15 managing conservator lived in the same residence at any time during
16 a six-month period preceding the date on which a suit for
17 dissolution of the marriage was filed and the possessory
18 conservator's county of residence remains the same and the managing
19 conservator's county of residence changes after they no longer live
20 in the same residence, effective on the date the order is rendered;

21 (4) if the possessory conservator elects to end a
22 period of possession at the time the child's school resumes, the
23 possessory conservator shall surrender the child to the managing
24 conservator at the end of each period of possession at the school in
25 which the child is enrolled;

26 (5) each conservator shall return with the child the
27 personal effects that the child brought at the beginning of the

1 period of possession;

2 (6) either parent may designate a competent adult to
3 pick up and return the child, as applicable; a parent or a
4 designated competent adult shall be present when the child is
5 picked up or returned;

6 (7) a parent shall give notice to the person in
7 possession of the child on each occasion that the parent will be
8 unable to exercise that parent's right of possession for a
9 specified period;

10 (8) written notice, including notice provided by
11 electronic mail or facsimile, shall be deemed to have been timely
12 made if received or, if applicable, postmarked before or at the time
13 that notice is due; and

14 (9) if a conservator's time of possession of a child
15 ends at the time school resumes and for any reason the child is not
16 or will not be returned to school, the conservator in possession of
17 the child shall immediately notify the school and the other
18 conservator that the child will not be or has not been returned to
19 school.

20 SECTION 2. Section 153.317(a), Family Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (a) If elected by a conservator, the court shall alter the
23 standard possession order under Sections 153.312, 153.314, and
24 153.315 to provide for one or more of the following alternative
25 beginning and ending possession times for the described periods of
26 possession, unless the court finds that the election is not in the
27 best interest of the child:

1 (1) for weekend periods of possession under Section
2 153.312(a)(1) during the regular school term:

3 (A) beginning at the time the child's school is
4 regularly dismissed; ~~or~~

5 (B) ending at the time the child's school resumes
6 after the weekend; or

7 (C) beginning at the time described by Paragraph
8 (A) and ending at the time described by Paragraph (B);

9 (2) for Thursday periods of possession under Section
10 153.312(a)(2):

11 (A) beginning at the time the child's school is
12 regularly dismissed; ~~or~~

13 (B) ending at the time the child's school resumes
14 on Friday; or

15 (C) beginning at the time described by Paragraph
16 (A) and ending at the time described by Paragraph (B);

17 (3) for spring vacation periods of possession under
18 Section 153.312(b)(1), beginning at the time the child's school is
19 dismissed for those vacations;

20 (4) for Christmas school vacation periods of
21 possession under Section 153.314(1), beginning at the time the
22 child's school is dismissed for the vacation;

23 (5) for Thanksgiving holiday periods of possession
24 under Section 153.314(3), beginning at the time the child's school
25 is dismissed for the holiday;

26 (6) for Father's Day periods of possession under
27 Section 153.314(5), ending at 8 a.m. on the Monday after Father's

1 Day weekend;

2 (7) for Mother's Day periods of possession under
3 Section 153.314(6):

4 (A) beginning at the time the child's school is
5 regularly dismissed on the Friday preceding Mother's Day; ~~[or]~~

6 (B) ending at the time the child's school resumes
7 after Mother's Day; or

8 (C) beginning at the time described by Paragraph
9 (A) and ending at the time described by Paragraph (B); or

10 (8) for weekend periods of possession that are
11 extended under Section 153.315(b) by a student holiday or teacher
12 in-service day that falls on a Friday, beginning at the time the
13 child's school is regularly dismissed on Thursday.

14 SECTION 3. Section 153.3162, Family Code, is repealed.

15 SECTION 4. Sections 153.316 and 153.317, Family Code, as
16 amended by this Act, apply only to a court order providing for
17 possession of or access to a child rendered on or after the
18 effective date of this Act. A court order rendered before the
19 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
20 date the order was rendered, and the former law is continued in
21 effect for that purpose.

22 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 845 was passed by the House on April 18, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 845 was passed by the Senate on May 17, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor