

Child Custody

Miami Child Custody Attorney

If you have children, a divorce order does not mean your relationship with your former spouse will be over. In the interest of your children, you and your ex will need to communicate and cooperate both during your divorce and after.

I am Theodore H. Enfield, a family law attorney in Miami with more than 30 years of experience in guiding couples through issues such as legal custody, residential custody, child support and parenting plans. Contact me to discuss your concerns during a free telephone consultation.

Legal Child Custody

"Legal custody" involves the right to share in the making of decisions concerning the education, medical care and upbringing of a child. Florida favors joint legal custody of children unless there are compelling reasons to give legal custody to one parent.

For your children's benefit, parents should avoid custody battles. Each parent should contact the other when educational or medical issues present themselves and make decisions jointly. Additionally, neither parent should disparage the other, especially in front of the children.

Residential Child Custody

"Residential custody" describes where the child will live. Parenting plans can range from rotating child custody plans to traditional plans in which one parent has primary residential custody and the other parent has visitation.

In making a child custody determination, Florida courts will consider the best interest of the child. Factors used in determining a child's best interest include:

- Which parent is more likely to allow the child frequent and continuing contact with the nonresidential parent
- The bonds of affection between each parents and the child
- The ability of each parent to meet the child's needs
- The length of time the child has lived in a stable and satisfactory environment
- The permanence of the custodial home
- The moral fitness, mental health and physical health of the parents
- The preference of the child

Modifications in child custody and child support orders can be made if there is a change in a parent's or child's circumstances that affects the best interest of the child.

Free Consultation with a Florida Lawyer

If you have questions pertaining to separation, divorce or family law, contact the Miami law firm of Theodore Enfield. For a free consultation by telephone, call 305-933-9592 or 1-800-733-5299 or fill out the contact form on this Web site.