



Maryland Survey Results

Q1 Would you support or oppose a change in Maryland Family Law that would create a starting point whereby joint legal and physical custody - commonly referred to as shared parenting - for approximately equal periods of time is viewed as being in the best interests of the child? This starting point would still enable the court to consider preferences of the child, the distance between residences, or any history of child abuse, neglect or domestic violence before making a determination on whether joint custody is appropriate in any given case.

Support a change in Maryland Family Law 59%
 Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law 19%
 Not sure 23%

Q2 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Fatherlessness is a major problem in America today.

Agree 75%
 Disagree 12%
 Not sure 13%

Q3 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The role of fathers has changed drastically in the past 50 years.

Agree 63%
 Disagree 27%
 Not sure 9%

Q4 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Both parents should share responsibility for raising their children.

Agree 93%
 Disagree 3%
 Not sure 4%

Q5 Thinking about parents who get divorced and have to go to court to decide who should get custody of their children, and neither of which have any history of child abuse, neglect, or domestic violence, in general, who do you think should have more rights – the mother, the father, or do you think their rights should be equal?

The mother should have more rights in child custody disputes 14%
 The father should have more rights in child custody disputes 3%
 The mother and father should have equal rights 79%
 Not sure 4%

Q6 Having heard all the information in this poll, let me ask you again: Would you support or oppose a change in Maryland Family Law that would create a starting point whereby joint legal and physical custody - commonly referred to as shared parenting - for approximately equal periods of time is viewed as being in the best interests of the child? This starting point would still enable the court to consider preferences of the child, the distance between residences, or any history of child abuse, neglect or domestic violence before making a determination on whether joint custody is appropriate in any given case.

Support a change in Maryland Family Law 63%
 Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law 15%
 Not sure 22%

Q7 Are you currently a parent to a child under age 18?

Yes 27%
 No 73%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
 Man 47%





Q9 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	54%
<i>Republican</i>	32%
<i>Independent or another party</i>	14%

Q10 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	60%
<i>African-American</i>	29%
<i>Other</i>	11%

Q11 If you are 18-45 years old, press 1. If 46-65, press 2. If older than 65, press 3

<i>18 to 45</i>	36%
<i>46 to 65</i>	44%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





	Base	Parent to Child Under 18	
		Yes	No
MD Family Law Joint Custody			
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	59%	58%	59%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	19%	22%	17%
Not sure	23%	20%	24%

	Base	Parent to Child Under 18	
		Yes	No
Fatherlessness Problem Agree/ Disagree			
Agree	75%	69%	77%
Disagree	12%	11%	13%
Not sure	13%	21%	10%

	Base	Parent to Child Under 18	
		Yes	No
Father Role Change Agree/ Disagree			
Agree	63%	67%	62%
Disagree	27%	26%	28%
Not sure	9%	7%	10%

	Base	Parent to Child Under 18	
		Yes	No
Both Parents Should Raise Children Agree/ Disagree			
Agree	93%	91%	93%
Disagree	3%	3%	3%
Not sure	4%	6%	3%

	Base	Parent to Child Under 18	
		Yes	No
Child Custody Disputes Mom/ Dad/ Both			
The mother should have more rights in child custody disputes	14%	13%	14%
The father should have more rights in child custody disputes	3%	2%	4%
The mother and father should have equal rights	79%	81%	78%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Parent to Child Under 18	
		Yes	No
MD Family Law Support/ Oppose Post- Poll			
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	63%	57%	65%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	15%	21%	13%
Not sure	22%	22%	22%





	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
MD Family Law Joint Custody			
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	59%	54%	64%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	19%	19%	18%
Not sure	23%	27%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Fatherlessness Problem Agree/ Disagree			
Agree	75%	70%	79%
Disagree	12%	12%	12%
Not sure	13%	17%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Father Role Change Agree/ Disagree			
Agree	63%	62%	65%
Disagree	27%	26%	29%
Not sure	9%	12%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Both Parents Should Raise Children Agree/ Disagree			
Agree	93%	95%	91%
Disagree	3%	1%	6%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Child Custody Disputes Mom/ Dad/ Both			
The mother should have more rights in child custody disputes	14%	17%	11%
The father should have more rights in child custody disputes	3%	2%	6%
The mother and father should have equal rights	79%	75%	83%
Not sure	4%	6%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
MD Family Law Support/ Oppose Post- Poll			
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	63%	58%	68%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	15%	17%	13%
Not sure	22%	25%	19%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or another party
MD Family Law Joint Custody				
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	59%	63%	52%	55%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	19%	13%	25%	27%
Not sure	23%	24%	23%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or another party
Fatherlessness Problem Agree/ Disagree				
Agree	75%	71%	80%	75%
Disagree	12%	14%	12%	8%
Not sure	13%	15%	8%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or another party
Father Role Change Agree/ Disagree				
Agree	63%	65%	57%	72%
Disagree	27%	24%	35%	21%
Not sure	9%	11%	8%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or another party
Both Parents Should Raise Children Agree/ Disagree				
Agree	93%	94%	92%	89%
Disagree	3%	1%	5%	6%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or another party
Child Custody Disputes Mom/ Dad/ Both				
The mother should have more rights in child custody disputes	14%	16%	10%	16%
The father should have more rights in child custody disputes	3%	0%	9%	3%
The mother and father should have equal rights	79%	79%	77%	80%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or another party
MD Family Law Support/ Oppose Post- Poll				
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	63%	67%	60%	54%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	15%	10%	20%	24%
Not sure	22%	24%	20%	22%





	Base	Race		
		White	African-American...	Other
MD Family Law Joint Custody				
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	59%	54%	65%	66%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	19%	19%	19%	14%
Not sure	23%	26%	16%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American...	Other
Fatherlessness Problem Agree/ Disagree				
Agree	75%	75%	71%	81%
Disagree	12%	11%	16%	10%
Not sure	13%	14%	13%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American...	Other
Father Role Change Agree/ Disagree				
Agree	63%	67%	52%	76%
Disagree	27%	25%	38%	12%
Not sure	9%	9%	10%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American...	Other
Both Parents Should Raise Children Agree/ Disagree				
Agree	93%	96%	91%	82%
Disagree	3%	1%	7%	7%
Not sure	4%	4%	2%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American...	Other
Child Custody Disputes Mom/ Dad/ Both				
The mother should have more rights in child custody disputes	14%	14%	13%	21%
The father should have more rights in child custody disputes	3%	3%	6%	1%
The mother and father should have equal rights	79%	79%	80%	75%
Not sure	4%	5%	1%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American...	Other
MD Family Law Support/ Oppose Post- Poll				
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	63%	60%	67%	68%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	15%	14%	17%	15%
Not sure	22%	26%	17%	17%





	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
MD Family Law Joint Custody				
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	59%	55%	62%	57%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	19%	19%	20%	15%
Not sure	23%	25%	18%	28%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Fatherlessness Problem Agree/ Disagree				
Agree	75%	70%	77%	77%
Disagree	12%	16%	10%	11%
Not sure	13%	14%	13%	12%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Father Role Change Agree/ Disagree				
Agree	63%	67%	62%	60%
Disagree	27%	26%	29%	25%
Not sure	9%	7%	9%	14%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Both Parents Should Raise Children Agree/ Disagree				
Agree	93%	88%	96%	95%
Disagree	3%	6%	1%	2%
Not sure	4%	6%	3%	3%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Child Custody Disputes Mom/ Dad/ Both				
The mother should have more rights in child custody disputes	14%	18%	11%	15%
The father should have more rights in child custody disputes	3%	8%	1%	1%
The mother and father should have equal rights	79%	70%	85%	81%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	3%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
MD Family Law Support/ Oppose Post- Poll				
Support a change in Maryland Family Law	63%	54%	72%	60%
Oppose a change in Maryland Family Law	15%	19%	12%	13%
Not sure	22%	27%	16%	26%

