

2019 Shared Parenting Report Card

National Parents Organization conducted a review of the child custody laws of all 50 states and graded them on the degree to which these laws promote shared parenting, the arrangement that research shows is in children's best interest after divorce or separation. Georgia received a 'C' for its child custody statutes. (Visit sharedparenting.org.)



State Details

State	Grade	Positives	Negatives
Georgia GA. CODE ANN. § 19-9-6 GA. CODE ANN. § 19-9-3	C	Georgia statutes explicitly define “joint physical custody” as “substantially equal time and contact with both parents.” GA. CODE ANN. § 19-9-6 Georgia expressly encourages that minor children have “continuing contact with parents and grandparents who have shown the ability to act in the best interest of the child” and “parents to share in the rights and responsibilities of raising their children after such parents have separated or dissolved their marriage.” GA. CODE ANN. § 19-9-3	Georgia has no statutory preference for, or presumption of, shared parenting (joint legal custody and shared physical custody) for temporary or final orders. Georgia statutes do not require courts to consider “friendly parent” factors in awarding custody.

How Can Georgia Improve?

Recommendation # 1 - Implement Shared Parenting

NPO recommends Georgia enact the rebuttable presumption proposed in HB1140 (2020) that equal or approximately equal parenting time is in the best interest of children.

Recommendation #2 - Temporary Orders

NPO supports presumption of equal or approximately equal parenting during temporary orders, as proposed in HB1140 (2020). Equally shared parenting during temporary orders provide continuity of relationships with both parents for the child during the period when the court lacks sufficient evidence for a final determination.

Recommendation # 3- Tracking Parenting Time Orders

NPO strongly recommends that the Georgia legislature require each county court that handles child custody cases to maintain records of the division of parenting time, tracked by overnights or equivalent, for all cases of divorce involving minor children and for paternity cases, and to compile and publish these statistics annually, separating marital from non-marital cases and agreed judgments from court-imposed judgments.

About NPO

National Parents Organization seeks to promote children's wellbeing by making equal shared parenting the norm when parents are living apart. This is the separated parenting arrangement that research shows is typically in children's best interest.

Join National Parents Organization to help achieve its goals.

For more information, visit nationalparentsorganization.org

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How Does Georgia Compare to Other States?

Summary: State Grades	
Grade	2019
A	2
B	7
C	26
D	14
F	2
Average	C-