Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite Provides Guidance on Child Custody and Parenting Plans in Florida

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JACKSONVILLE, FL - May 01, 2026 -
Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite, a Jacksonville-based family and criminal law firm, has released comprehensive guidance to help Florida residents better understand the complexities of child custody arrangements and parenting plans within the state's family law framework.

The firm's initiative addresses the growing need for clear, accessible information about custody matters as families navigate the often challenging process of establishing parenting arrangements. With three Board Certified Marital & Family Law Experts serving as managing partners, the firm represents the only practice in Northeast Florida with this distinction.

Child custody determinations in Florida involve multiple considerations that affect both parents and children. The state's family law system utilizes parenting plans as structured documents that outline specific arrangements for time-sharing schedules, parental responsibilities, and decision-making authority. These plans serve as legally binding agreements that establish how parents will share responsibilities for their

children's upbringing, education, healthcare decisions, and daily care.

"Understanding the framework of Florida's custody laws helps parents approach these situations with realistic expectations and better preparation," said Jay Henderlite, managing partner at Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite. "Parenting plans are designed to provide structure and clarity during what can be an emotionally challenging time, ensuring that children's needs remain the primary focus throughout the process."

Florida law recognizes two primary types of custody arrangements: legal custody, which involves decision-making authority for major life decisions affecting the child, and physical custody, which determines where the child resides and the time-sharing schedule between parents. The state's courts apply the best interests standard when making custody determinations, considering factors such as each parent's capacity to provide a stable environment, the child's existing relationships, and the ability of parents to communicate effectively regarding the child's needs.

Parenting plans in Florida must address numerous elements to be considered complete and enforceable. These documents typically include detailed time-sharing schedules, holiday and vacation arrangements, transportation responsibilities, communication methods between parents, and procedures for making changes to the plan when circumstances change. The plans also establish protocols for handling emergencies, sharing information about the child's education and health, and resolving disputes that may arise between parents.

The firm's child custody services extend to various family structures, including representation for mothers, fathers, grandparents, same-sex couples, and unmarried parents. Each situation presents unique considerations that require careful attention to legal requirements and practical implementation strategies.

Common challenges in custody cases include allegations of parental unfitness, concerns about parental alienation, and disputes over relocation. Florida law provides mechanisms for addressing these issues through the court system while maintaining focus on the children's welfare and stability.

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite maintains three office locations throughout Jacksonville and specializes in both family and criminal law matters. The firm's approach emphasizes strategic case management, pursuing negotiated resolutions when possible while maintaining readiness for litigation when necessary to protect clients' parental rights and their children's best interests.

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Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite is a Jacksonville law firm representing clients in divorce, family law, and domestic violence cases. With three Board-Certified partners, the firm handles custody, support, alimony, and property division with dedication.

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