

7807

I N S E N A T E

June 20, 2012

Introduced by Sen. OPPENHEIMER -- read twice and ordered printed, and
when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the domestic relations law and the family court act, in
relation to changing the denotation of visitation to parenting time

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY,
DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds and
2 declares that the term "visitation" carries a negative connotation with
3 respect to noncustodial parents who want to be a part of their chil-
4 dren's lives. Society has given the term "visitation" a negative conno-
5 tation that can be associated with the visiting of an inmate at a
6 correctional facility or prison. The purpose of this act is to reflect
7 the fact that a parent's time with a child is not merely as a visitor
8 but constitutes parenting time.

9 S 1-a. Section 2 of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter
10 920 of the laws of 1974, is amended to read as follows:

11 S 2. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS CHAPTER:

12 1. A "minor" or "infant", [as used in this chapter,] is a person under
13 the age of eighteen years.

14 2. "VISITATION" REFERS TO TIME PERMITTED TO BE SPENT WITH A CHILD
15 PURSUANT TO A COURT ORDER UNDER THIS CHAPTER, THE FAMILY COURT ACT OR AN
16 ORDER ENFORCED UNDER ARTICLE FIVE-A OF THIS CHAPTER, BY A PERSON WHO IS
17 NOT A PARENT OF THE CHILD. THIS SHALL INCLUDE GRANDPARENTS, SIBLINGS AND
18 STEP-PARENTS.

19 3. "PARENTING TIME" REFERS TO THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT A PARENT MAY
20 SPEND WITH HIS OR HER CHILD PURSUANT TO A COURT ORDER UNDER THIS CHAP-
21 TER, THE FAMILY COURT ACT OR AN ORDER ENFORCED UNDER ARTICLE FIVE-A OF
22 THIS CHAPTER.

23 S 2. Subdivision (b) of section 70 of the domestic relations law, as
24 added by chapter 457 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

25 (b) Any order under this section which applies to rights of [visita-
26 tion] PARENTING TIME with a child remanded or placed in the care of a
27 person, official, agency or institution pursuant to article ten of the
28 family court act or pursuant to an instrument approved under section

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 three hundred fifty-eight-a of the social services law, shall be
2 enforceable pursuant to the provisions of part eight of article ten of
3 such act, sections three hundred fifty-eight-a and three hundred eight-
4 y-four-a of the social services law and other applicable provisions of
5 law against any person or official having care and custody, or temporary
6 care and custody, of such child.

7 S 3. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 75-a of the domestic relations
8 law, as added by chapter 386 of the laws of 2001, are amended to read as
9 follows:

10 3. "Child custody determination" means a judgment, decree, or other
11 order of a court providing for the legal custody, physical custody, or
12 [visitation] PARENTING TIME with respect to a child. The term includes a
13 permanent, temporary, initial, and modification order. The term does not
14 include an order relating to child support or other monetary obligation
15 of an individual.

16 4. "Child custody proceeding" means a proceeding in which legal custo-
17 dy, physical custody, [or] visitation OR PARENTING TIME with respect to
18 a child is an issue. The term includes a proceeding for divorce, sepa-
19 ration, neglect, abuse, dependency, guardianship, paternity, termination
20 of parental rights, and protection from domestic violence, in which the
21 issue may appear. The term does not include a proceeding involving juve-
22 nile delinquency, person in need of supervision, contractual emancipa-
23 tion, or enforcement under title three of this article.

24 S 4. Subdivision 1 of section 235 of the domestic relations law, as
25 amended by chapter 122 of the laws of 1979, is amended to read as
26 follows:

27 1. An officer of the court with whom the proceedings in a matrimonial
28 action or a written agreement of separation or an action or proceeding
29 for custody, [visitation] PARENTING TIME or maintenance of a child are
30 filed, or before whom the testimony is taken, or his clerk, either
31 before or after the termination of the suit, shall not permit a copy of
32 any of the pleadings, affidavits, findings of fact, conclusions of law,
33 judgment of dissolution, written agreement of separation or memorandum
34 thereof, or testimony, or any examination or perusal thereof, to be
35 taken by any other person than a party, or the attorney or counsel of a
36 party, except by order of the court.

37 S 5. Subdivision (b) of section 237 of the domestic relations law, as
38 amended by chapter 329 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as
39 follows:

40 (b) Upon any application to enforce, annul or modify an order or judg-
41 ment for alimony, maintenance, distributive award, distribution of mari-
42 tal property or for custody, [visitation,] PARENTING TIME or maintenance
43 of a child, made as in section two hundred thirty-six or section two
44 hundred forty of this article provided, or upon any application by writ
45 of habeas corpus or by petition and order to show cause concerning
46 custody, [visitation] PARENTING TIME or maintenance of a child, the
47 court may direct a spouse or parent to pay counsel fees and fees and
48 expenses of experts directly to the attorney of the other spouse or
49 parent to enable the other party to carry on or defend the application
50 or proceeding by the other spouse or parent as, in the court's
51 discretion, justice requires, having regard to the circumstances of the
52 case and of the respective parties. There shall be a rebuttable presump-
53 tion that counsel fees shall be awarded to the less monied spouse. In
54 exercising the court's discretion, the court shall seek to assure that
55 each party shall be adequately represented and that where fees and
56 expenses are to be awarded, they shall be awarded on a timely basis,

pendente lite, so as to enable adequate representation from the commencement of the proceeding. Applications for the award of fees and expenses may be made at any time or times prior to final judgment. Both parties to the action or proceeding and their respective attorneys, shall file an affidavit with the court detailing the financial agreement, between the party and the attorney. Such affidavit shall include the amount of any retainer, the amounts paid and still owing thereunder, the hourly amount charged by the attorney, the amounts paid, or to be paid, any experts, and any additional costs, disbursements or expenses. Any applications for fees and expenses may be maintained by the attorney for either spouse in counsel's own name in the same proceeding. Payment of any retainer fees to the attorney for the petitioning party shall not preclude any awards of fees and expenses to an applicant which would otherwise be allowed under this section.

S 6. Paragraphs (a) and (a-1) of subdivision 1 of section 240 of the domestic relations law, paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 476 of the laws of 2009 and paragraph (a-1) as amended by chapter 295 of the laws of 2009, are amended to read as follows:

(a) In any action or proceeding brought (1) to annul a marriage or to declare the nullity of a void marriage, or (2) for a separation, or (3) for a divorce, or (4) to obtain, by a writ of habeas corpus or by petition and order to show cause, the custody of or right to [visitation] PARENTING TIME with any child of a marriage, the court shall require verification of the status of any child of the marriage with respect to such child's custody and support, including any prior orders, and shall enter orders for custody and support as, in the court's discretion, justice requires, having regard to the circumstances of the case and of the respective parties and to the best interests of the child and subject to the provisions of subdivision one-c of this section. Where either party to an action concerning custody of or a right to [visitation] PARENTING TIME with a child alleges in a sworn petition or complaint or sworn answer, cross-petition, counterclaim or other sworn responsive pleading that the other party has committed an act of domestic violence against the party making the allegation or a family or household member of either party, as such family or household member is defined in article eight of the family court act, and such allegations are proven by a preponderance of the evidence, the court must consider the effect of such domestic violence upon the best interests of the child, together with such other facts and circumstances as the court deems relevant in making a direction pursuant to this section and state on the record how such findings, facts and circumstances factored into the direction. If a parent makes a good faith allegation based on a reasonable belief supported by facts that the child is the victim of child abuse, child neglect, or the effects of domestic violence, and if that parent acts lawfully and in good faith in response to that reasonable belief to protect the child or seek treatment for the child, then that parent shall not be deprived of custody, [visitation] PARENTING TIME or contact with the child, or restricted in custody, [visitation] PARENTING TIME or contact, based solely on that belief or the reasonable actions taken based on that belief. If an allegation that a child is abused is supported by a preponderance of the evidence, then the court shall consider such evidence of abuse in determining the [visitation arrangement] PARENTING TIME that is in the best interest of the child, and the court shall not place a child in the custody of a parent who presents a substantial risk of harm to that child, and shall state on the record how such findings were factored into the determination. An

1 order directing the payment of child support shall contain the social
2 security numbers of the named parties. In all cases there shall be no
3 prima facie right to the custody of the child in either parent. Such
4 direction shall make provision for child support out of the property of
5 either or both parents. The court shall make its award for child support
6 pursuant to subdivision one-b of this section. Such direction may
7 provide for reasonable visitation rights to the maternal and/or paternal
8 grandparents of any child of the parties. Such direction as it applies
9 to rights of [visitation] PARENTING TIME with a child remanded or placed
10 in the care of a person, official, agency or institution pursuant to
11 article ten of the family court act, or pursuant to an instrument
12 approved under section three hundred fifty-eight-a of the social
13 services law, shall be enforceable pursuant to part eight of article ten
14 of the family court act and sections three hundred fifty-eight-a and
15 three hundred eighty-four-a of the social services law and other appli-
16 cable provisions of law against any person having care and custody, or
17 temporary care and custody, of the child. Notwithstanding any other
18 provision of law, any written application or motion to the court for the
19 establishment, modification or enforcement of a child support obligation
20 for persons not in receipt of public assistance and care must contain
21 either a request for child support enforcement services which would
22 authorize the collection of the support obligation by the immediate
23 issuance of an income execution for support enforcement as provided for
24 by this chapter, completed in the manner specified in section one
25 hundred eleven-g of the social services law; or a statement that the
26 applicant has applied for or is in receipt of such services; or a state-
27 ment that the applicant knows of the availability of such services, has
28 declined them at this time and where support enforcement services pursu-
29 ant to section one hundred eleven-g of the social services law have been
30 declined that the applicant understands that an income deduction order
31 may be issued pursuant to subdivision (c) of section fifty-two hundred
32 forty-two of the civil practice law and rules without other child
33 support enforcement services and that payment of an administrative fee
34 may be required. The court shall provide a copy of any such request for
35 child support enforcement services to the support collection unit of the
36 appropriate social services district any time it directs payments to be
37 made to such support collection unit. Additionally, the copy of any such
38 request shall be accompanied by the name, address and social security
39 number of the parties; the date and place of the parties' marriage; the
40 name and date of birth of the child or children; and the name and
41 address of the employers and income payors of the party from whom child
42 support is sought or from the party ordered to pay child support to the
43 other party. Such direction may require the payment of a sum or sums of
44 money either directly to the custodial parent or to third persons for
45 goods or services furnished for such child, or for both payments to the
46 custodial parent and to such third persons; provided, however, that
47 unless the party seeking or receiving child support has applied for or
48 is receiving such services, the court shall not direct such payments to
49 be made to the support collection unit, as established in section one
50 hundred eleven-h of the social services law. Every order directing the
51 payment of support shall require that if either parent currently, or at
52 any time in the future, has health insurance benefits available that may
53 be extended or obtained to cover the child, such parent is required to
54 exercise the option of additional coverage in favor of such child and
55 execute and deliver to such person any forms, notices, documents or

1 instruments necessary to assure timely payment of any health insurance
2 claims for such child.

3 (a-1)(1) Permanent and initial temporary orders of custody or [visita-
4 tion] PARENTING TIME. Prior to the issuance of any permanent or initial
5 temporary order of custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME, the court
6 shall conduct a review of the decisions and reports listed in subpara-
7 graph three of this paragraph.

8 (2) Successive temporary orders of custody or [visitation] PARENTING
9 TIME. Prior to the issuance of any successive temporary order of custo-
10 dy or [visitation] PARENTING TIME, the court shall conduct a review of
11 the decisions and reports listed in subparagraph three of this para-
12 graph, unless such a review has been conducted within ninety days prior
13 to the issuance of such order.

14 (3) Decisions and reports for review. The court shall conduct a review
15 of the following:

16 (i) related decisions in court proceedings initiated pursuant to arti-
17 cle ten of the family court act, and all warrants issued under the fami-
18 ly court act; and

19 (ii) reports of the statewide computerized registry of orders of
20 protection established and maintained pursuant to section two hundred
21 twenty-one-a of the executive law, and reports of the sex offender
22 registry established and maintained pursuant to section one hundred
23 sixty-eight-b of the correction law.

24 (4) Notifying counsel and issuing orders. Upon consideration of deci-
25 sions pursuant to article ten of the family court act, and registry
26 reports and notifying counsel involved in the proceeding, or in the
27 event of a self-represented party, notifying such party of the results
28 thereof, including any court appointed attorney for children, the court
29 may issue a temporary, successive temporary or final order of custody or
30 [visitation] PARENTING TIME.

31 (5) Temporary emergency order. Notwithstanding any other provision of
32 the law, upon emergency situations, including computer malfunctions, to
33 serve the best interest of the child, the court may issue a temporary
34 emergency order for custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME in the event
35 that it is not possible to timely review decisions and reports on regis-
36 tries as required pursuant to subparagraph three of this paragraph.

37 (6) After issuing a temporary emergency order. After issuing a tempo-
38 rary emergency order of custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME, the
39 court shall conduct reviews of the decisions and reports on registries
40 as required pursuant to subparagraph three of this paragraph within
41 twenty-four hours of the issuance of such temporary emergency order.
42 Should such twenty-four hour period fall on a day when court is not in
43 session, then the required reviews shall take place the next day the
44 court is in session. Upon reviewing decisions and reports the court
45 shall notify associated counsel, self-represented parties and attorneys
46 for children pursuant to subparagraph four of this paragraph and may
47 issue temporary or permanent custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME
48 orders.

49 (7) Feasibility study. The commissioner of the office of children and
50 family services, in conjunction with the office of court administration,
51 is hereby authorized and directed to examine, study, evaluate and make
52 recommendations concerning the feasibility of the utilization of comput-
53 ers in courts which are connected to the statewide central register of
54 child abuse and maltreatment established and maintained pursuant to
55 section four hundred twenty-two of the social services law, as a means
56 of providing courts with information regarding parties requesting orders

1 of custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME. Such commissioner shall make
2 a preliminary report to the governor and the legislature of findings,
3 conclusions and recommendations not later than January first, two thou-
4 sand nine, and a final report of findings, conclusions and recommenda-
5 tions not later than June first, two thousand nine, and shall submit
6 with the reports such legislative proposals as are deemed necessary to
7 implement the commissioner's recommendations.

8 S 7. Subdivision 1-a of section 240 of the domestic relations law, as
9 amended by chapter 12 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 1-a. In any proceeding brought pursuant to this section to determine
12 the custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME of minors, a report made to
13 the statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment, pursuant
14 to title six of article six of the social services law, or a portion
15 thereof, which is otherwise admissible as a business record pursuant to
16 rule forty-five hundred eighteen of the civil practice law and rules
17 shall not be admissible in evidence, notwithstanding such rule, unless
18 an investigation of such report conducted pursuant to title six of arti-
19 cle six of the social services law has determined that there is some
20 credible evidence of the alleged abuse or maltreatment and that the
21 subject of the report has been notified that the report is indicated.
22 In addition, if such report has been reviewed by the state commissioner
23 of [social] THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY services or his designee
24 and has been determined to be unfounded, it shall not be admissible in
25 evidence. If such report has been so reviewed and has been amended to
26 delete any finding, each such deleted finding shall not be admissible.
27 If the state commissioner of [social] THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
28 services or his designee has amended the report to add any new finding,
29 each such new finding, together with any portion of the original report
30 not deleted by [the] SUCH commissioner or his designee, shall be admis-
31 sible if it meets the other requirements of this subdivision and is
32 otherwise admissible as a business record. If such a report, or portion
33 thereof, is admissible in evidence but is uncorroborated, it shall not
34 be sufficient to make a fact finding of abuse or maltreatment in such
35 proceeding. Any other evidence tending to support the reliability of
36 such report shall be sufficient corroboration.

37 S 8. Subparagraph 9 of paragraph (f) of subdivision 1-b of section 240
38 of the domestic relations law, as added by chapter 567 of the laws of
39 1989, is amended to read as follows:

40 (9) Provided that the child is not on public assistance (i) extraor-
41 dinary expenses incurred by the non-custodial parent in exercising
42 [visitation] PARENTING TIME, or (ii) expenses incurred by the non-custo-
43 dial parent in extended [visitation] PARENTING TIME provided that the
44 custodial parent's expenses are substantially reduced as a result there-
45 of; and

46 S 9. Paragraph c of subdivision 3 of section 240 of the domestic
47 relations law, as amended by chapter 597 of the laws of 1998, is amended
48 to read as follows:

49 c. An order of protection entered pursuant to this subdivision may be
50 made in the final judgment in any matrimonial action or in a proceeding
51 to obtain custody of or [visitation] PARENTING TIME with any child under
52 this section, or by one or more orders from time to time before or
53 subsequent to final judgment, or by both such order or orders and the
54 final judgment. The order of protection may remain in effect after entry
55 of a final matrimonial judgment and during the minority of any child
56 whose custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME is the subject of a

1 provision of a final judgment or any order. An order of protection may
2 be entered notwithstanding that the court for any reason whatsoever,
3 other than lack of jurisdiction, refuses to grant the relief requested
4 in the action or proceeding.

5 S 10. Section 241 of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter
6 892 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

7 S 241. Interference with or withholding of [visitation] PARENTING TIME
8 rights; alimony or maintenance suspension. When it appears to the satis-
9 faction of the court that a custodial parent receiving alimony or main-
10 tenance pursuant to an order, judgment or decree of a court of competent
11 jurisdiction has wrongfully interfered with or withheld [visitation]
12 PARENTING TIME rights provided by such order, judgment or decree, the
13 court, in its discretion, may suspend such payments or cancel any
14 arrears that may have accrued during the time that [visitation] PARENT-
15 ING TIME rights have been or are being interfered with or withheld.
16 Nothing in this section shall constitute a defense in any court to an
17 application to enforce payment of child support or grounds for the
18 cancellation of arrears for child support.

19 S 11. Section 251 of the domestic relations law, as added by chapter
20 164 of the laws of 1973, is amended to read as follows:

21 S 251. Filing of order in family court. When, in a matrimonial action,
22 the supreme court refers the issues of support, custody or [visitation]
23 PARENTING TIME to the family court, the order or judgment shall provide
24 that a copy thereof shall be filed by the plaintiff's attorney, within
25 ten days, with the clerk of the family court therein specified.

26 S 12. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 252 of the domestic
27 relations law, as amended by chapter 349 of the laws of 1995, is amended
28 to read as follows:

29 (b) to permit a parent, or a person entitled to visitation OR PARENT-
30 ING TIME by a court order or a separation agreement, to [visit] BE WITH
31 the child at stated periods;

32 S 13. Subdivision 3 of section 252 of the domestic relations law, as
33 added by chapter 349 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

34 3. An order of protection entered pursuant to this subdivision may be
35 made in the final judgment in any matrimonial action, or by one or more
36 orders from time to time before or subsequent to final judgment, or by
37 both such order or orders and the final judgment. The order of
38 protection may remain in effect after entry of a final matrimonial judg-
39 ment and during the minority of any child whose custody or [visitation]
40 PARENTING TIME is the subject of a provision of a final judgment or any
41 order. An order of protection may be entered notwithstanding that the
42 court for any reason whatsoever, other than lack of jurisdiction,
43 refuses to grant the relief requested in the action or proceeding.

44 S 14. Subparagraph 9 of paragraph (f) of subdivision 1 of section 413
45 of the family court act, as amended by chapter 567 of the laws of 1989,
46 is amended to read as follows:

47 (9) Provided that the child is not on public assistance (i) extraor-
48 dinary expenses incurred by the non-custodial parent in exercising
49 [visitation] PARENTING TIME, or (ii) expenses incurred by the non-custo-
50 dial parent in extended [visitation] PARENTING TIME provided that the
51 custodial parent's expenses are substantially reduced as a result there-
52 of; and

53 S 15. Subdivisions (a) and (c) of section 439 of the family court act,
54 as amended by section 1 of chapter 576 of the laws of 2005, are amended
55 to read as follows:

1 (a) The chief administrator of the courts shall provide, in accordance
2 with subdivision (f) of this section, for the appointment of a suffi-
3 cient number of support magistrates to hear and determine support
4 proceedings. Except as hereinafter provided, support magistrates shall
5 be empowered to hear, determine and grant any relief within the powers
6 of the court in any proceeding under this article, articles five,
7 five-A, and five-B and sections two hundred thirty-four and two hundred
8 thirty-five of this act, and objections raised pursuant to section five
9 thousand two hundred forty-one of the civil practice law and rules.
10 Support magistrates shall not be empowered to hear, determine and grant
11 any relief with respect to issues specified in subdivision five of
12 section four hundred fifty-four or section four hundred fifty-five of
13 this [act] ARTICLE, issues of contested paternity involving claims of
14 equitable estoppel, custody, [visitation] PARENTING TIME including
15 [visitation] PARENTING TIME as a defense, and orders of protection or
16 exclusive possession of the home, which shall be referred to a judge as
17 provided in subdivision (b) or (c) of this section. Where an order of
18 filiation is issued by a judge in a paternity proceeding and child
19 support is in issue, the judge, or support magistrate upon referral from
20 the judge, shall be authorized to immediately make a temporary or final
21 order of support, as applicable. A support magistrate shall have the
22 authority to hear and decide motions and issue summonses and subpoenas
23 to produce persons pursuant to section one hundred fifty-three of this
24 act, hear and decide proceedings and issue any order authorized by
25 subdivision (g) of section five thousand two hundred forty-one of the
26 civil practice law and rules, issue subpoenas to produce prisoners
27 pursuant to section two thousand three hundred two of the civil practice
28 law and rules and make a determination that any person before the
29 support magistrate is in violation of an order of the court as author-
30 ized by section one hundred fifty-six of this act subject to confirma-
31 tion by a judge of the court who shall impose any punishment for such
32 violation as provided by law. A determination by a support magistrate
33 that a person is in willful violation of an order under subdivision
34 three of section four hundred fifty-four of this article and that recom-
35 mends commitment shall be transmitted to the parties, accompanied by
36 findings of fact, but the determination shall have no force and effect
37 until confirmed by a judge of the court.

38 (c) The support magistrate, in any proceeding in which issues speci-
39 fied in section four hundred fifty-five of this act, or issues of custo-
40 dy, [visitation] PARENTING TIME, including [visitation] PARENTING TIME
41 as a defense, orders of protection or exclusive possession of the home
42 are present or in which paternity is contested on the grounds of equita-
43 ble estoppel, shall make a temporary order of support and refer the
44 proceeding to a judge. Upon determination of such issue by a judge, the
45 judge may make a final determination of the issue of support, or imme-
46 diately refer the proceeding to a support magistrate for further
47 proceedings regarding child support or other matters within the authori-
48 ty of the support magistrate.

49 S 16. Subdivision (a) of section 439 of the family court act, as
50 amended by section 2 of chapter 576 of the laws of 2005, is amended to
51 read as follows:

52 (a) The chief administrator of the courts shall provide, in accordance
53 with subdivision (f) of this section, for the appointment of a suffi-
54 cient number of support magistrates to hear and determine support
55 proceedings. Except as hereinafter provided, support magistrates shall
56 be empowered to hear, determine and grant any relief within the powers

1 of the court in any proceeding under this article, articles five,
2 five-A, and five-B and sections two hundred thirty-four and two hundred
3 thirty-five of this act, and objections raised pursuant to section five
4 thousand two hundred forty-one of the civil practice law and rules.
5 Support magistrates shall not be empowered to hear, determine and grant
6 any relief with respect to issues specified in section four hundred
7 fifty-five of this [act] ARTICLE, issues of contested paternity involv-
8 ing claims of equitable estoppel, custody, [visitation] PARENTING TIME
9 including [visitation] PARENTING TIME as a defense, and orders of
10 protection or exclusive possession of the home, which shall be referred
11 to a judge as provided in subdivision (b) or (c) of this section. Where
12 an order of filiation is issued by a judge in a paternity proceeding and
13 child support is in issue, the judge, or support magistrate upon refer-
14 ral from the judge, shall be authorized to immediately make a temporary
15 or final order of support, as applicable. A support magistrate shall
16 have the authority to hear and decide motions and issue summonses and
17 subpoenas to produce persons pursuant to section one hundred fifty-three
18 of this act, hear and decide proceedings and issue any order authorized
19 by subdivision (g) of section five thousand two hundred forty-one of the
20 civil practice law and rules, issue subpoenas to produce prisoners
21 pursuant to section two thousand three hundred two of the civil practice
22 law and rules and make a determination that any person before the
23 support magistrate is in violation of an order of the court as author-
24 ized by section one hundred fifty-six of this act subject to confirma-
25 tion by a judge of the court who shall impose any punishment for such
26 violation as provided by law. A determination by a support magistrate
27 that a person is in willful violation of an order under subdivision
28 three of section four hundred fifty-four of this article and that recom-
29 mends commitment shall be transmitted to the parties, accompanied by
30 findings of fact, but the determination shall have no force and effect
31 until confirmed by a judge of the court.

32 S 17. Subdivision (b) of section 446 of the family court act, as
33 amended by chapter 483 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as
34 follows:

35 (b) to permit a parent, or a person entitled to visitation OR PARENT-
36 ING TIME by a court order or a separation agreement, to [visit] BE WITH
37 the child at stated periods;

38 S 18. Section 447 of the family court act, subdivision (a) as amended
39 by chapter 85 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

40 S 447. Order of [visitation] PARENTING TIME. (a) In the absence of an
41 order of custody or of [visitation] PARENTING TIME entered by the
42 supreme court, the court may make an order of custody or of [visitation]
43 PARENTING TIME, in accordance with subdivision one of section two
44 hundred forty of the domestic relations law, requiring one parent to
45 permit the other to [visit] BE WITH the children at stated periods with-
46 out an order of protection, even where the parents are divorced and the
47 support order is for a child only.

48 (b) Any order of the family court under this section shall terminate
49 when the supreme court makes an order of custody or of [visitation]
50 PARENTING TIME concerning the children, unless the supreme court contin-
51 ues the order of the family court.

52 S 19. Subdivision (a) of section 456 of the family court act, as
53 amended by chapter 809 of the laws of 1963, is amended to read as
54 follows:

55 (a) No person may be placed on probation under this article unless the
56 court makes an order to that effect, either at the time of the making of

1 an order of support or under section four hundred fifty-four OF THIS
2 PART. The period of probation may continue so long as an order of
3 support, order of protection or order of [visitation] PARENTING TIME
4 applies to such person.

5 S 20. Subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 467 of the family court act,
6 as amended by chapter 40 of the laws of 1981, are amended to read as
7 follows:

8 (a) In an action for divorce, separation or annulment, the supreme
9 court may refer to the family court the determination of applications to
10 fix temporary or permanent custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME,
11 applications to enforce judgments and orders of custody or [visitation]
12 PARENTING TIME, and applications to modify judgments and orders of
13 custody which modification may be granted only upon a showing to the
14 family court that there has been a subsequent change of circumstances
15 and that modification is required.

16 (b) In the event no such referral has been made and unless the supreme
17 court provides in the order or judgment awarding custody or [visitation]
18 PARENTING TIME in an action for divorce, separation or annulment, that
19 it may be enforced or modified only in the supreme court, the family
20 court may: (i) determine an application to enforce the order or judgment
21 awarding custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME, or (ii) determine an
22 application to modify the order or judgment awarding custody or [visita-
23 tion] PARENTING TIME upon a showing that there has been a subsequent
24 change of circumstances and modification is required.

25 S 21. Section 511 of the family court act, as amended by chapter 533
26 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

27 S 511. Jurisdiction. Except as otherwise provided, the family court
28 has exclusive original jurisdiction in proceedings to establish paterni-
29 ty and, in any such proceedings in which it makes a finding of paterni-
30 ty, to order support and to make orders of custody or of [visitation]
31 PARENTING TIME, as set forth in this article. On its own motion, the
32 court may at any time in the proceedings also direct the filing of a
33 neglect petition in accord with the provisions of article ten of this
34 act. In accordance with the provisions of section one hundred eleven-b
35 of the domestic relations law, the surrogate's court has original juris-
36 diction concurrent with the family court to determine the issues relat-
37 ing to the establishment of paternity.

38 S 22. Section 549 of the family court act, as added by chapter 952 of
39 the laws of 1971, subdivision (a) as amended by chapter 85 of the laws
40 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

41 S 549. Order of [visitation] PARENTING TIME. (a) If an order of fili-
42 ation is made or if a paternity agreement or compromise is approved by
43 the court, in the absence of an order of custody or of [visitation]
44 PARENTING TIME entered by the supreme court the family court may make an
45 order of custody or of [visitation] PARENTING TIME, in accordance with
46 subdivision one of section two hundred forty of the domestic relations
47 law, requiring one parent to permit the other to [visit] BE WITH the
48 child or children at stated periods.

49 (b) Any order of the family court under this section shall terminate
50 when the supreme court makes an order of custody or of [visitation]
51 PARENTING TIME concerning the child or children, unless the supreme
52 court continues the order of the family court.

53 S 23. Subdivision (b) of section 551 of the family court act, as
54 amended by chapter 483 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as
55 follows:

1 (b) to permit a parent PARENTING TIME, or a person entitled to visita-
2 tion by a court order or a separation agreement to [visit] BE WITH the
3 child at stated periods;

4 S 24. Section 651 of the family court act, as amended by chapter 85 of
5 the laws of 1996, subdivision (b) as amended by chapter 657 of the laws
6 of 2003, subdivision (d) as amended by chapter 41 of the laws of 2010,
7 subdivision (e) as amended by chapter 295 of the laws of 2009 and subdi-
8 vision (f) as added by chapter 473 of the laws of 2009, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 S 651. Jurisdiction over habeas corpus proceedings and petitions for
11 custody [and], visitation AND PARENTING TIME of minors. (a) When
12 referred from the supreme court or county court to the family court, the
13 family court has jurisdiction to determine, in accordance with subdivi-
14 sion one of section two hundred forty of the domestic relations law and
15 with the same powers possessed by the supreme court in addition to its
16 own powers, habeas corpus proceedings and proceedings brought by peti-
17 tion and order to show cause, for the determination of the custody [or],
18 visitation AND PARENTING TIME of minors.

19 (b) When initiated in the family court, the family court has jurisdic-
20 tion to determine, in accordance with subdivision one of section two
21 hundred forty of the domestic relations law and with the same powers
22 possessed by the supreme court in addition to its own powers, habeas
23 corpus proceedings and proceedings brought by petition and order to show
24 cause, for the determination of the custody [or], visitation AND PARENT-
25 ING TIME of minors, including applications by a grandparent or grandpar-
26 ents for visitation or custody rights pursuant to section seventy-two or
27 two hundred forty of the domestic relations law.

28 (c) When initiated in the family court pursuant to a petition under
29 part eight of article ten of this act or section three hundred fifty-
30 eight-a of the social services law, the family court has jurisdiction to
31 enforce or modify orders or judgments of the supreme court relating to
32 the [visitation] PARENTING TIME of minors in foster care, notwithstand-
33 ing any limitation contained in subdivision (b) of section four hundred
34 sixty-seven of this act.

35 (d) With respect to applications by a grandparent or grandparents for
36 visitation or custody rights, made pursuant to section seventy-two or
37 two hundred forty of the domestic relations law, with a child remanded
38 or placed in the care of a person, official, agency or institution
39 pursuant to the provisions of article ten of this act, the applicant, in
40 such manner as the court shall prescribe, shall serve a copy of the
41 application upon the social services official having care and custody of
42 such child, and the child's attorney, who shall be afforded an opportu-
43 nity to be heard thereon.

44 (e) 1. Permanent and initial temporary orders of custody or [visita-
45 tion] PARENTING TIME. Prior to the issuance of any permanent or initial
46 temporary order of custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME, the court
47 shall conduct a review of the decisions and reports listed in paragraph
48 three of this subdivision.

49 2. Successive temporary orders of custody or [visitation] PARENTING
50 TIME. Prior to the issuance of any successive temporary order of custo-
51 dy or [visitation] PARENTING TIME, the court shall conduct a review of
52 the decisions and reports listed in paragraph three of this subdivision,
53 unless such a review has been conducted within ninety days prior to the
54 issuance of such order.

55 3. Decisions and reports for review. The court shall conduct a review
56 of the following:

1 (i) related decisions in court proceedings initiated pursuant to arti-
2 cle ten of this act, and all warrants issued under this act; and

3 (ii) reports of the statewide computerized registry of orders of
4 protection established and maintained pursuant to section two hundred
5 twenty-one-a of the executive law, and reports of the sex offender
6 registry established and maintained pursuant to section one hundred
7 sixty-eight-b of the correction law.

8 4. Notifying counsel and issuing orders. Upon consideration of deci-
9 sions pursuant to article ten of this act, and registry reports and
10 notifying counsel involved in the proceeding, or in the event of a self-
11 represented party, notifying such party of the results thereof, includ-
12 ing any court appointed attorney for children, the court may issue a
13 temporary, successive temporary or final order of custody or [visita-
14 tion] PARENTING TIME.

15 5. Temporary emergency order. Notwithstanding any other provision of
16 the law, upon emergency situations, including computer malfunctions, to
17 serve the best interest of the child, the court may issue a temporary
18 emergency order for custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME in the event
19 that it is not possible to timely review decisions and reports on regis-
20 tries as required pursuant to paragraph three of this subdivision.

21 6. After issuing a temporary emergency order. After issuing a tempo-
22 rary emergency order of custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME, the
23 court shall conduct reviews of the decisions and reports on registries
24 as required pursuant to paragraph three of this subdivision within twen-
25 ty-four hours of the issuance of such temporary emergency order. Should
26 such twenty-four hour period fall on a day when court is not in session,
27 then the required reviews shall take place the next day the court is in
28 session. Upon reviewing decisions and reports the court shall notify
29 associated counsel, self-represented parties and attorneys for children
30 pursuant to paragraph four of this subdivision and may issue temporary
31 or permanent custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME orders.

32 7. Feasibility study. The commissioner of the office of children and
33 family services, in conjunction with the office of court administration,
34 is hereby authorized and directed to examine, study, evaluate and make
35 recommendations concerning the feasibility of the utilization of comput-
36 ers in family courts which are connected to the statewide central regis-
37 ter of child abuse and maltreatment established and maintained pursuant
38 to section four hundred twenty-two of the social services law, as a
39 means of providing family courts with information regarding parties
40 requesting orders of custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME. Such
41 commissioner shall make a preliminary report to the governor and the
42 legislature of findings, conclusions and recommendations not later than
43 January thirty-first, two thousand nine, and a final report of findings,
44 conclusions and recommendations not later than June first, two thousand
45 nine, and shall submit with the reports such legislative proposals as
46 are deemed necessary to implement the commissioner's recommendations.

47 (f) Military service by parent; effect on child custody orders. 1.
48 During the period of time that a parent is activated, deployed or tempo-
49 rarily assigned to military service, such that the parent's ability to
50 continue as a joint caretaker or the primary caretaker of a minor child
51 is materially affected by such military service, any orders issued
52 pursuant to this section, based on the fact that the parent is acti-
53 vated, deployed or temporarily assigned to military service, which would
54 materially affect or change a previous judgment or order regarding
55 custody of that parent's child or children as such judgment or order
56 existed on the date the parent was activated, deployed, or temporarily

1 assigned to military service, shall be subject to review pursuant to
2 paragraph three of this subdivision. Any relevant provisions of the
3 Service Member's Civil Relief Act shall apply to all proceedings
4 governed by this section.

5 2. During such period, the court may enter an order to modify custody
6 if there is clear and convincing evidence that the modification is in
7 the best interests of the child. An attorney for the child shall be
8 appointed in all cases where a modification is sought during such mili-
9 tary service. Such order shall be subject to review pursuant to para-
10 graph three of this subdivision. When entering an order pursuant to this
11 section, the court shall consider and provide for, if feasible and if in
12 the best interests of the child, contact between the military service
13 member and his or her child including, but not limited to, electronic
14 communication by e-mail, webcam, telephone, or other available means.
15 During the period of the parent's leave from military service, the court
16 shall consider the best interests of the child when establishing a
17 parenting schedule, including visiting and other contact. For such
18 purpose, a "leave from military service" shall be a period of not more
19 than three months.

20 3. Unless the parties have otherwise stipulated or agreed, if an order
21 is issued pursuant to this subdivision, the return of the parent from
22 active military service, deployment or temporary assignment shall be
23 considered a substantial change in circumstances. Upon the request of
24 either parent, the court shall determine on the basis of the child's
25 best interests whether the custody judgment or order previously in
26 effect should be modified.

27 4. This subdivision shall not apply to assignments to permanent duty
28 stations or permanent changes of station.

29 S 25. Section 651-a of the family court act, as amended by chapter 12
30 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

31 S 651-a. Reports of child abuse and maltreatment; admissibility. In
32 any proceeding brought pursuant to this section to determine the custody
33 [or], visitation OR PARENTING TIME of minors, a report made to the
34 statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment, pursuant to
35 title six of article six of the social services law, or a portion there-
36 of, which is otherwise admissible as a business record pursuant to rule
37 forty-five hundred eighteen of the civil practice law and rules shall
38 not be admissible in evidence, notwithstanding such rule, unless an
39 investigation of such report conducted pursuant to title six of article
40 six of the social services law has determined that there is some credi-
41 ble evidence of the alleged abuse or maltreatment, that the subject of
42 the report has been notified that the report is indicated. In addition,
43 if such report has been reviewed by the state commissioner of [social]
44 THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY services or his designee and has been
45 determined to be unfounded, it shall not be admissible in evidence. If
46 such report has been so reviewed and has been amended to delete any
47 finding, each such deleted finding shall not be admissible. If the state
48 commissioner of [social] THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY services or
49 his designee has amended the report to add any new finding, each such
50 new finding, together with any portion of the original report not
51 deleted by [the] SUCH commissioner or his designee, shall be admissible
52 if it meets the other requirements of this section and is otherwise
53 admissible as a business record. If such a report, or portion thereof,
54 is admissible in evidence but is uncorroborated, it shall not be suffi-
55 cient to make a fact finding of abuse or maltreatment in such proceed-

ing. Any other evidence tending to support the reliability of such report shall be sufficient corroboration.

S 26. Subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 652 of the family court act, as amended by chapter 40 of the laws of 1981, are amended to read as follows:

(a) When referred from the supreme court to the family court, the family court has jurisdiction to determine, with the same powers possessed by the supreme court, applications to fix temporary or permanent custody and applications to modify judgments and orders of custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME in actions and proceedings for marital separation, divorce, annulment of marriage and dissolution of marriage. Applications to modify judgments and orders of custody may be granted by the family court under this section only upon the showing to the family court that there has been a subsequent change of circumstances and that modification is required.

(b) In the event no such referral has been made and unless the supreme court provides in the order or judgment awarding custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME in an action for divorce, separation or annulment, that it may be enforced or modified only in the supreme court, the family court may: (i) determine an application to enforce the order or judgment awarding custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME, or (ii) determine an application to modify the order or judgment awarding custody or [visitation] PARENTING TIME upon a showing that there has been a subsequent change of circumstances and modification is required.

S 27. Subdivision (b) of section 656 of the family court act, as amended by chapter 483 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

(b) to permit a parent PARENTING TIME, or a person entitled to visitation by a court order or a separation agreement, to [visit] BE WITH the child at stated periods;

S 28. Subdivision (b) of section 759 of the family court act, as amended by chapter 483 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

(b) to permit a parent PARENTING TIME, or a person entitled to visitation by a court order or a separation agreement, to [visit] BE WITH the child at stated periods;

S 29. Subdivision (b) of section 842 of the family court act, as amended by chapter 483 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

(b) to permit a parent PARENTING TIME, or a person entitled to visitation by a court order or a separation agreement, to [visit] BE WITH the child at stated periods;

S 30. Section 119 of the family court act is amended by adding two new subdivisions (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(D) "VISITATION" REFERS TO TIME PERMITTED TO BE SPENT WITH A CHILD PURSUANT TO A COURT ORDER UNDER THIS CHAPTER, THE FAMILY COURT ACT OR AN ORDER ENFORCED UNDER ARTICLE FIVE-A OF THIS CHAPTER, BY A PERSON WHO IS NOT A PARENT OF THE CHILD. THIS SHALL INCLUDE GRANDPARENTS, SIBLINGS AND STEP-PARENTS.

(E) "PARENTING TIME" REFERS TO THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT A PARENT MAY SPEND WITH HIS OR HER CHILD PURSUANT TO A COURT ORDER UNDER THIS CHAPTER, THE FAMILY COURT ACT OR AN ORDER ENFORCED UNDER ARTICLE FIVE-A OF THIS CHAPTER.

S 31. This act shall take effect immediately, provided that the amendments to subdivision (a) of section 439 of the family court act made by section fifteen of this act shall be subject to the expiration and

1 reversion of such subdivision pursuant to section 246 of chapter 81 of
2 the laws of 1995, as amended, when upon such date the provisions of
3 section sixteen of this act shall take effect.