



HB 13-1259 - Sponsors Representative McCann & Senator Newell
Civil Protection & Domestic Relations Orders
Just makes \$ense

Families have a right to a transparent, accessible and fair court process. Parents United for Change supports the work of the Domestic Violence and Domestic Relations Taskforce, convened by the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), and CCADV's Public Policy Committee who worked collaboratively with legal, domestic violence, and mental health professionals across the state to recommend these much needed Family Court statutory reforms *to enhance safety and ensure protections for children, parents, and victims of domestic violence, child abuse or neglect in proceedings* involving the allocation of parental responsibilities (child custody).

Bill Highlights – Safety First

- **Have the Court make specific findings on domestic violence, child abuse or neglect allegations *before* making further determinations**
- **Clarify the level of evidence required for claims of child abuse to be consistent with domestic violence = “preponderance of evidence”**
- **Recognize parents who are acting in good faith to protect their children**
- **Reduce consideration of retaliatory parental alienation claims since it has been discredited by the scientific and legal community, improving consistency with the state’s evidentiary *Daubert* standard**
- **Safely protect children and parents with appropriate Parenting Plans and Decision Making responsibilities**
- **Recognize the rights of children in custody disputes**
- **Give the Court discretion to order an additional Parental Responsibility Evaluation**
- **Have the Court make specific findings on the record about all relevant factors**
- **Allow the court to consider past or present domestic violence for relocation requests**
- **Reduce emotional, psychological, and financial harm, legal abuse, and/or domestic violence by proxy in Family Court**

HB13-1259 changes are practical; based on research, scholarly literature, and a pattern of experiences across domestic relations cases. HB13-1259 is intended to ensure the safety of abused children and parents. HB13-1259 is necessary to:

- **Update Colorado’s statutes with the latest judicial, family and children’s studies to safely protect children and victims of abuse**
- **Reduce litigation**
- **Minimize the use of Judicial re\$ources and time**
- **Minimize the drain of family time and financial re\$ources in custody disputes**
- **Minimize the intrusion of Family Court in children’s lives**
- **Build accountability and transparency**

Please SUPPORT HB13-1259 – Safety First in Family Court

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