

Child Custody Options in Mississippi

There are different types of custody of children in Mississippi. There is **Legal Custody** and **Physical Custody**.

Legal Custody means the **decision-making rights** related to the child's health, education and welfare. Miss. Code Ann. § 93-5-24(5)(d).

Physical Custody means the time when a child **resides (lives) with** or is in the actual care of one parent. Miss. Code Ann. § 93-5-24(5)(b).

These are generally the custody options in most cases:

- Parents may share **joint Physical and Legal Custody**.
 - Joint Physical Custody is when the child lives with each parent about the same amount of time.
 - Joint Legal Custody is when parents share in making decisions about the child.
- One parent may have **sole Legal Custody** and the parents have **joint Physical Custody**. This is where one parent will have the decision-making rights for the child, but the child lives with each parent about the same amount of time.
- The parents have **joint Legal Custody** and one parent may have **sole Physical Custody**. This is where both parents will share in the decision-making rights for the child, but the child lives with one parent most of the time. The other parent usually has visitation with the child and is responsible for paying child support for the child.
- One parent may have **sole Legal and Physical Custody**. This means the child will live with this parent most of the time and this parent will have the decision-making rights for the child. The other parent usually has visitation with the child and is responsible for paying child support for the child.