

HB 803 How Much Time Does A Child Need With A Parent?

This seems like a pretty straightforward question. Look, if we are going to get child custody laws right, we need to be able to understand how parenting time affects children. The best interest of the child needs to be the foremost consideration. What amount of time with a parent provides the emotional stability and support to provide a child with a healthy childhood that they don't have to recover from?

Several leading, world renowned, child behavioral psychologists have been studying this issue for years. They have discovered that children view their self-worth and importance by the amount of time that their parents spend with them. This becomes very apparent in children that are separated from their parents. Parental absence increases stress hormones and leads to problems in adolescence and adulthood. For instance, without adequate fathering time, children fall into over 80 at-risk categories including drug use, suicide, teenage pregnancy, obesity, school dropouts, etc.

Below is a graph based on 7 different research strategies to test the relationship between parenting time and how children best maximize their emotional self-worth with parents. In the graph, children were best served when they had equal time with both parents. HB 803 will prevent children from being at-risk. HB 803 is in the best interest of Texas children.

