

Texas Resident Polling | Child Support

RESIDENT ATTITUDES ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT POLICY

In July 2022, <u>National Parents Organization</u> (NPO) commissioned Researchscape International to complete an independent poll of Texas residents regarding attitudes about child support. Below are highlights of that poll. For additional details or to get involved please contact the Texas NPO Chapter at <u>sharedparenting.org/texas</u> or <u>texas@sharedparenting.org</u>. Please see page 2 for additional results.

ON THE BEST LIVING ARRANGEMENT FOR KIDS

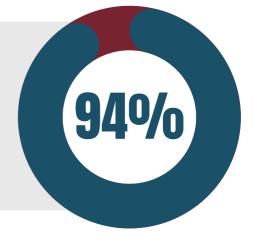
93% of Texas residents believe it is in a child's best interest to have as much time as possible with each of their parents when they live apart.

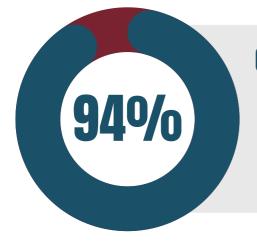
Since 1989, Texas law has presumed it's in a child's best interest to have limited physical access of four overnights in a typical month with one of their parents. TFC, § 153.252

ON THE AUTOMATIC SHARING OF CHILD EXPENSES

94% of Texas residents agree that child-related expenses should be split proportionally based on each parent's income when parents live apart.

Only Texas & Mississippi do not adjust for both parents' incomes or time with the child when determining the transfer between homes to cover child-related costs. TFC, Ch. 154





ON AUTOMATIC PARENTING TIME ADJUSTMENTS

94% of Texas residents agree the amount of time each parent spends with their children impacts the child-related expenses each parent incurs.

Only Texas & Mississippi do not adjust child support for time with the child or both parents' income, even though time spent parenting affects child-related expenses. TFC Ch. 154

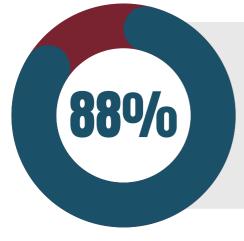
Data is based on a professional poll conducted by Researchscape International from July 15 to 19, 2022. The sample size of 564 respondents, representative of Texas adults with respect to race, gender, age, income, political alignment and more, provides an estimated credibility interval of plus or minus 6%.



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RESIDENT ATTITUDES ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT POLICY [CONTINUED]

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ON SETTING CHILD SUPPORT THAT'S FAIR TO KIDS

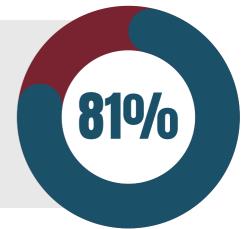
88% of Texas residents believe Texas judges <u>should</u> <u>not</u> be required to consider how to maximize federal funding for the state when setting child support.

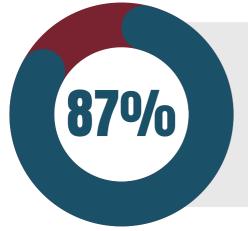
Family Code, § 201.107: 'judges shall take any action necessary to maximize federal funds available under the Title IV-D program.' [condensed] Higher child support = more federal funds.

ON PROVIDING A PARENTAL SELF-SUPPORT RESERVE

81% of Texas residents believe that each parent should have a portion of their income set aside for their own base living expenses when setting child support.

Texas is one of two states that do not have a self-support reserve for the paying parent. Parents forced into in poverty by child support cannot care for themselves <u>or</u> their children. TFC Ch. 154





ON SHARING IN CHILD-RELATED TAX BENEFITS

87% of Texas residents agree that parents should share in child-related tax benefits in the same way parents should share in child-related expenditures.

Child-related tax benefits are claimed by the parent receiving support, but the value of these credits is not considered in setting the child support amount to cover remaining child expenses. TFC Ch. 154

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