

Possible Outcomes

In most cases, parents are asked to discuss the family access problem in mediation. If the parents cannot agree upon a satisfactory solution, the court may consider the following options:

- Finding of contempt
- Counseling
- A compensatory period of custody or visitation not less than the period of time denied
- A fine up to \$500
- Requiring a security bond to insure future compliance
- Payment for counseling between the child and the parent filing the motion
- Attorney's fees and court costs

Family Court Services

(816) 736-8400

Clay County Circuit Clerk

11 South Water

Liberty, MO 64068

(816) 407-3850

www.circuit7.net/familycourts

Family Access Enforcement

A guide to services in
Clay County
Family Courts



For More Information or Assistance:

Family Court Services

Children's Justice Center

351 East Kansas Street

Liberty, MO 64068

(816) 736-8400

www.circuit7.net

What is a Family Access Motion?

A person may file a family access motion if a court order of custody or visitation is denied or interfered with without good cause.



What orders are enforceable?

A specific schedule for parenting time as set out in a final court order is enforceable through the family access process. An order for “reasonable” visitation may not be specific enough for a family access motion to be appropriate.

How is a Motion Filed?

- Note specific violations of times set forth in the existing court order
- Obtain forms and an explanation of filing procedures from the Circuit Clerk
- Pay filing fees and file the forms at the Circuit Clerk’s Office.

What happens next?

- Parent filing (“movant”) is referred to the family access resolution program.
- Parent served has 10 days to respond
- Case is screened for services with both parents.
- Both parents are also required to attend a parent orientation program.
- Mediation and/or arbitration session is scheduled.
- Recommendations forwarded for court review.

Our goal is to help parents complete the process within 60 days.

Why use dispute resolution?

Interpretation of orders, conflicts in schedules, and breakdowns in communications are common problems. A legal ruling is often only part of the solution. Dispute resolution helps guide parents through a constructive evaluation of the problems and practical solutions.

What about my child?

Parents often focus on “enforcing their rights”, but they should bear in mind that access is for their child’s benefit too. Outdated schedules should be reviewed in light of what is age-appropriate for the child. Time with peers and extra-curricular activities need some accommodation. What’s best for the child is always an important consideration.

