

## Unit 8: Kansas Parenting Law

**Essential Question:** What can be done to appreciate human worth and accept responsibility for one's actions for success in the family?

**Lesson Problem:** What are parents required to do under Kansas law to provide for their children?

### National FCS Standards

(Refer to: <http://nasafacs.org/national-standards--competencies.html>)

#### Content: 7.0 Family and Community Service

##### Comprehensive Standard:

7.4 Evaluate conditions affecting individuals and families with a variety of disadvantaging conditions.

**Competency:** 7.4.6 Summarize the appropriate support needed to address selected human services issues.

#### Content: 15.0 Parenting

##### Comprehensive Standard:

15.3 Evaluate external support systems that provide services for parents.

##### Competencies:

15.3.1 Assess community resources and services available to families.

15.3.3 Summarize current laws and policies related to parenting.

### Kansas Family and Consumer Sciences Competencies

#### Content: Family Studies (22208/22218)

**Benchmark:** 5.4: Evaluate external support systems that provide service for parents.

##### Competencies:

5.4.1: Identify community resources and services available to families.

5.4.3: Evaluate community resources that provide opportunities related to parenting.

5.4.4: Review current laws and policies related to parenting.

**Benchmark:** 5.7 Demonstrate standards that guide behavior in interpersonal relationships.

##### Competency:

5.7.4: Demonstrate critical thinking and ethical decision making when making judgments and taking action.

#### Content: Human Growth and Development (45004/45014)

**Benchmark:** 12.3 Evaluate strategies that promote human growth and development across the life span.

##### Competency:

12.3.1 Evaluate the role of nurturance on human growth and development.

#### Basic Skills: (red font/highlight)

Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Process Skills: (red font/highlight)

- Thinking & Problem Solving: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving (Flexibility), Creativity (Innovation)
- Information Literacy and Communication Skills: Communication (Media Literacy, Technology)
- Leadership and Collaboration: Leadership (Initiative), Management (Productivity), Goal Setting, Decision Making

#### Learning Objectives: The learner will:

- Determine how parents are established in the state of Kansas.
- Determine how paternity is established in Kansas.

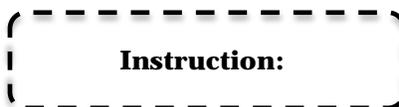
- Define key legal terms as they apply to parenting and paternity.
- Describe the procedure for determining paternity.
- Explain the benefits of determining paternity.

**Vocabulary:**

-Biological Mother  
-Biological Father  
-Presumed Father  
-Alleged Father  
-Legal Father  
-Statute

-Sole Custody  
-Joint Custody  
-Residential Placement  
-Divided Custody  
-Parenting Time

-Noncustodial Parent  
-Child Support  
-Alimony  
-Court Order  
-Summons



*\*Teacher Note: Remember that some students may have experienced the following situations, so caution needs to be used when presenting this lesson.*

*\*Teacher Note: Due to the highly factual nature of this lesson, a teacher should read all of the content thoroughly before presenting lesson to students.*

*(NOTE: This unit asks students to have a class notebook to write in. The teacher may want to determine if an alternative requirement will be in place.)*

**Bell Work: (5 minutes)**

*(Project or post these items before the students enter the classroom. Direct students to answer the following (either hard copy or electronic), when set aside for now.)*

*What is meant by 'paternity'?*  
*What is child support?*  
*How important is child support?*

**Introduction (anticipatory set):**

**Teacher: Term Introduction** (5 minutes)

A. Read out loud a case study that deals with paternity asking the class to identify the following: (May wish to project these on the white board before beginning.)

- Biological Mother
- Biological Father
- Presumed Father
- Alleged Father
- Legal Father

*Case Study: Matt is married to Amber, but for the past six months they have not been living together. She had a child three months ago. Luke, a friend of Amber's, claims he is the father of the baby.*

Ask the class which person is each of the above. *(NOTE: This will allow the students to see they don't know for sure which is which.)*

**Learning Process (with activities):**

**I. Teacher: Terminology** (10 minutes)

A. Define each and then revisit the case study.

- Biological Father - a male who has sired or transmitted his genes to an offspring.
- Biological Mother – a female who has conceived and given birth to an offspring.
- Presumed Father – a legal term for a male who is married to the biological mother, signed an acknowledgment of paternity, or whose name is on the birth certificate.
- Alleged Father – a legal term for a male who may be legally married but not living with his wife and not divorced or who may be part of a relationship outside of marriage.
- Legal Father – a male, whose name appears on the birth certificate, is married to the biological mother or was determined the father through paternity testing.

**Activity#1: Think and Ponder** (10 minutes)

*(Pre-Preparation: Project or write the vocabulary terms with the “\*” on marker board for reference later in the unit.)*

As you have learned in an earlier unit, family relationships are very important when considering the best environment for children, but have you ever thought about the legal side of being a parent? Have you ever wondered about the subject of paternity? I know I didn’t at your age, but the world has changed since I was a teen.

In the next few minutes I want you to think and ponder about the subject of paternity. Consider the terms on the board *(or projected on the screen)* and write down your definition, thoughts or questions concerning each one. Each of you will share these with the class.

You will be given 3 minutes to complete this task. *(Allow 3 minutes.)*

**II. Teacher: Presumption** (20 minutes)

A. How is paternity determined in the State of Kansas? *(Allow students to share their thoughts from the Think and Ponder time.)* Paternity is the process of determining the father of the child and it is determined in a variety of ways.

Let’s look at an example:

If a teen mother goes to the hospital and delivers a baby there is a presumption of paternity. If the mother identifies a father on the birth certificate or she is married then this is called presumption of paternity.

B. Ask the students “*What is presumption?*” *(Definition: A fact to be assumed to be true under the law.) (For a more thorough definition see website listed in resources)*

Sometimes presumption is not enough for a father to establish paternity. If the father is not married to the mother then he must get a court order to establish paternity. The case study above indicates presumption is questionable. Here are the main concerns:

- First, all involved will go to mediation *(might have to define mediation)* then through the judicial system. The cost of a paternity test is \$90.00 through State of Kansas. It is done with a mouth swab, fingerprint, and ID check. The swab is sent to a lab and results usually take 2 weeks. If the biological identification is made, the father will get an Acknowledgment of Paternity. This is a written legal document identifying him as the biological father.
- Sometimes the identified father does not want to submit to a paternity test. If the court system is involved, the cost starts at \$500.00, plus court costs, but can cost thousands before the process is completed. The entire process usually takes 60 – 90 days. The courts can send a summons *(might have to define summons)*.
- Once a summons is served the father has 21 days to answer and set up genetic testing for determining paternity. The testing is through the Department of Children and Families on set days of the week. All is filed through the court and then child support will be established. In the State of Kansas, it is statute that child support must be paid out of the father’s paycheck. The only exception is when there is ‘good cause’. This is when the judge determines the father will pay without it being taken from his paycheck directly.
- If a mother delivers a baby in a Kansas hospital and the expenses are picked up by the state then a lawyer for the Department of Children and Families will be notified to establish child support. Services through the DCF are available regardless of a person’s money situation.

*[Alternative Activity: Guest Speaker (30-45 minutes)]*

*Invite a lawyer for the state to visit your class and discuss the above and answer questions regarding paternity.]*

### III. Teacher: Child Support Math (50 minutes)

A. Ask the students: “*How is child support determined?*” (*Allow students to share their thoughts from the Think and Ponder time.*) Child support is determined using a formula which is based on the following information. This formula is reviewed every four years in the State of Kansas to ensure it is determining the best financial support for the child/children in question.

This information is gathered and considered before the child support amount is established:

*(Include on a power point or distribute Handout 8.1-- “Calculating Child Support” if determined beneficial.)*

- Number of children who are the subject of the pending action:
- Number of children between 0-5:
- Number of children between 6 -11:
- Number of children between 12 – 18 (*This is the most expensive time when raising children.*)
- GROSS Monthly Income from both parents: \$
- Amount of monthly child support paid to the children from a prior marriage by Non-Custodial Parent: \$
- Amount of monthly alimony paid to spouse from a prior marriage by Non-Custodial Parent: \$
- Monthly cost of daycare paid by Non-Custodial Parent: \$
- Monthly cost of family group health insurance paid by Non-Custodial Parent: \$
- Gross Monthly Income of the custodial parent: \$
- Amount of monthly child support paid for children from a prior marriage by Custodial Parent: \$
- Amount of monthly alimony paid to spouse from a prior marriage by Custodial Parent: \$
- Monthly cost of daycare paid by Custodial Parent: \$
- Monthly cost of family group health insurance paid by Custodial Parent: \$

*(SIDE NOTE: If a mother delivers a baby in a Kansas hospital and the expenses are picked up by the State then a lawyer for the Department of Children and Families will be notified to establish child support. Services through the DCF are available regardless of a person’s money situation.)*

### Activity#2: FACT vs FUNCTION Worksheet (Worksheet 8.2) (15-30 minutes)

Direct students to the Kansas Department of Children and Families website. (*See website URL under resources at unit end.*)

Allow them a few minutes to explore, then have them complete the FACT vs. FUNCTION class handout. (*NOTE: It is at the teacher’s discretion as to how many facts they need to locate at this time OR which is determined of most value to the class.*)

### IV. Teacher: What if? (20 minutes)

A. What happens in Kansas if child support is not paid? (*Allow students to share their thoughts from the Bell work and Think and Ponder time.*)

If child support is not paid as determined by the courts, the parent is served and sent to court. They could be sent to jail from a week to 60 days in civil contempt of the court. In Kansas a parent cannot get out of paying child support. There is a New Hired Directory, which is a uniform document from state to state that tracks employees. A parents wages can be “garnished”. This means the employer is directed to remove the child support payment before the paycheck is issued. The child support is then given to the custodial parent. In many cases (but not all), it is the father whom is paying the child support as the custodial parent is the mother.

#### B. Fathers

Fathers are more than just a financial supporter of the child. As you have learned in a previous unit, fathers have vital roles in the development of the child/children. Some fathers do not realize their importance or do not have the skills needed to feel comfortable being a father. Failure to pay the court ordered child support can lead to arrest and jail time.

There are alternatives out there. One is “Father Court”. There are many benefits to this alternative:

**Children** - Gain from having an involved and potentially married, father. Men learn to develop better relationships with their children and children’s mothers through the 13-week fathering class. They also learn to obtain and maintain meaningful employment that allows them to provide consistent financial support.

**Fathers** - Learn life-long skills that positively impact their lives, their children’s lives, the mother of their children, and their community.

**Community** - Benefits from reduced financial costs as a result of rehabilitation. Specifically, skill development and employment assistance helps eliminate the expense of prosecution, incarceration, and welfare cost associated with delinquent child-support payments.

### Activity#3: Father Court (15 minutes)

Have students view the video on the Fathers.com website. (6 minutes)

[http://www.fathers.com/content/index.php?Itemid=117&id=84&option=com\\_content&task=view](http://www.fathers.com/content/index.php?Itemid=117&id=84&option=com_content&task=view) (© fathers.com All Rights Reserved, 2007.)

#### Debriefing Questions:

- Where you aware of this program?
- What is the program trying to accomplish?
- What are the positive and negatives of this program?
- How might this program address the issue of paternity?
- How will children benefit from having fathers in this program?

### V. Teacher: Child Custody and the Law (20 minutes)

A. How is custody determined in the state of Kansas? *(Allow students to share their thoughts from the Think and Ponder time.)*

Parents must come to court with a purposed parenting plan. A parenting plan determines where the children will live, when the parents will see the child/children, how the duties of being a parent will be shared. The parents do not have to have been married. They can file for custody even if they were never married. However, it is the courts who will determine custody based on “*what is in the child’s best interests*”.

In setting custody the following factors are reviewed:

- the desires of the parents
- the child’s adjustment to the child’s home, school, and community
- the willingness of each parent to allow for a continuing relationship between the child and other parent.

B. Here are terms common to custody issues: *(The teacher may want to include these in a power point or as a handout. You may want to move these earlier in the unit as well. )*

**Sole Custody** –the primary power to make decisions affecting the health, education, and welfare of the child is given to one parent.

*(NOTE: Only awarded in Kansas if the parent is absent or not a good parent.)*

**Joint Custody** – Parents have joint decision-making power in determining education, medical, and religion matters.

*(NOTE: ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS IN THE LEGAL WORLD!!!! For example if domestic violence involved then “good cause” could be declared.)*

**Residential Placement** – This is where the child/children will live.

**Divided Custody** – When siblings are divided and live with different parents.

Parenting Time – Term used when talking about when each parent can spend time with the child/children  
(NOTE: Kansas does not use visitation rights.)

Non-custodial Parent – The parent who does not live in the house with the children.

Child Support – The money paid by one parent for the care of their children. In Kansas it is **not** counted as income on taxes.

Spousal Maintenance –The money paid by one spouse to another after a divorce. In Kansas it is not called Alimony. This **does** count as income on taxes.

Court Order – This is a legal request issued by the court for action.

Summons – This is a request by the court to appear in court.

#### **Activity#4: “Court is in Session”**(35-45 minutes)

*(Optional Pre-Planning: If a bit more pre-planning is desired, prepare “roles” to pass out or draw that shares what each “actor” is to play and how to act it out. This would be in place of allowing students to “freely” act their parts.)*

*(Optional Activity: Locate and show an actual court room interaction where those involved are acting civil. This might be provided by a social worker or school case worker. The role play could follow.)*

Imagine you are a judge. What would it be like to make this decision? Let’s role-play this:

#### Directions:

1. Determine a custody issue or use the following:

*“The biological mother works nights and the biological father is unemployed, but known to allow the children to go without eating while the mother is gone. The grandparents want this to stop and are bringing this to court.”*

2. Ask the class the following questions:

- What is the issue with the care the father is giving? (Not providing basic needs and other care is questionable.)
- What is the issue with the care the mother is giving? (Allows it to continue)
- Why are the grandparents getting involved? (Worried about the children involved.)
- Why are the courts involved? (It’s the legal entity who can make sure the children’s needs are being met.)
- 

3. Divide class into parts – judge, biological mother, biological father, grandparent, 5-year-old child, and 3-year-old child. *(consider adding parts for lawyers (limit to two) if the class large enough.)* The classroom could be rearranged to make this more lifelike.

4. Allow “actors” to think about their role in this role play. When they feel they are ready, continue to the next step.

5. Allow class to “hold court” to determine who is awarded custody of the children.

6. After a certain time has passed, OR a judgment is reached OR just stop them if the role-play isn’t going anywhere to ask the debriefing questions: *(Optional: Assign students to answer these and collect for evaluation.)*

- What was the issue?
- Why do you think the father didn’t care?
- Why do you think the mother didn’t care?
- Why was there a concern for the children’s safety?
- Do you feel all possible solutions were explored?
- Who do you feel should be awarded custody of the children?
- If you could “retry” this case, what could be alternative custody awards possible?
- Could this entire issue been avoided?

#### **Activity#5: Well, I never...** (10-15 minutes)

(This is a writing assignment. It can be collected hard copy or electronically.)

In order to monitor student understanding of the complexity of this dilemma, ask the students to write this phrase and finish the sentence “*Well, I never.....*” as they determine how this could have been avoided. Collect when finished or assign as homework.

*[Optional Activity: (5-10 minutes) determined by class size) Ask students to share their answers with the class.]*

## **VI. Teacher: Adoption Option** (10 minutes plus an optional activity)

A. There is one more legal arrangement that is part of the unit on Parenting Law, and that is adoption. What about adoption?

A mother can do what she wants before the child is born. The mother could put the child up for adoption. The mother could identify any father on the birth certificate. The biological father really has few rights at this point. But let’s look at the benefits and challenges of the adoption option.

**Activity #6: Adoption Activity** --Pick one or more of the following (30-60 minutes per activity)

Option 1: *Kansas Adoption Process Debate*

Assign students to review the Kansas Adoption Process by conducting a website search. Assigning each a side (for and against adoption) to present to each other.

Option 2: Guest Speaker—*Legal Speaker*

Arrange for a legal entity who is involved in adoptions to visit the class to share the adoption process.

Option 3: Guest Speaker—*Adoptive Parents*

Arrange for parents who have adopted children to visit the classroom to discuss their experiences.

Option 4: Panel Discussion—*Adoption Panel*

Identify legal entities, parents who have adopted children and/or adults who were adopted. Determine questions to ask the panel, allowing students to add some of their own.

**Activity #6 Evaluation:** Assign a reflection paper after the option selected has been completed. Use your local writing evaluation rubric.

### **CONCLUSION:**

A. Review student interpretation with the review activity of your choice.

B. Develop a review activity or game.

C. Use the debriefing questions as the review.

### **Debriefing Questions:**

#### **Technical:**

- What is paternity?
- What state department is available to assist families?
- What is child support and who has to pay?

#### **Interpretation:**

- Why does the court system have to be involved when children’s needs are in question?
- Why does the state of Kansas care about paternity?
- Why does the court have to get involved with family issues like these?

#### **Reflective:**

- What can you do to avoid paternity issues in your future family?
- Why does the state feel both parents are vitally important in a child’s life?

#### **Assessment:**

- Definitions/matching test over terms. *(See first part of Unit 8: Parenting Law Test)*
- Reflective essay (Handout provided with rubric for evaluation)
- Optional: FCCLA STAR Event—focusing upon an issue related to this unit
- Assessment/Test *(Provided—Teacher will need to review and add or edit to reflect student's abilities and time allotment.)*

#### Teaching Resources:

- Website on custody questions - [www.cordellcordell.com/kansas-family-law-articles/197-kansas-child-custody-questions](http://www.cordellcordell.com/kansas-family-law-articles/197-kansas-child-custody-questions) (© 2013 Cordell & Cordell P.C.)
- Website for legal issues in Kansas – [www.kscourts.org](http://www.kscourts.org) (© 2007 Kansas Judicial Branch)
- Website for Kansas child support issues at the Department for Children and Families - [www.dcf.ks.gov/](http://www.dcf.ks.gov/) This web site contains a handbook on child support. (©2012)
- ABA Family Legal Guide - <http://public.findlaw.com/abaflg/flg-toc.html> (Copyright © 2013, Thomson Reuters)
- Lee Fisher, Court Trustee, Hays, KS
- Website for FCCLA – [www.fcclainc.org](http://www.fcclainc.org)
- Website for county by county census numbers - <http://www.kac.org/>
- Website for presumption - <http://www.lectlaw.com/def2/p149.htm> (© 1995 - 2013 The 'Lectric Law Library®)
- [www.theteacherscorner.net](http://www.theteacherscorner.net) (Copyright © 1998-2013 The Teacher's Corner™.)

#### Materials:

- Computer/LCD projector
- Optional--Class notebooks or reflection journal (one per student)

#### Handouts:

- 8.1—Calculating Child Support Handout
- 8.2—Fact and Function Worksheet
- 8.5—Kansas Parenting Law Test

#### FCCLA Integration: *(Affiliated chapter is required to use these materials. [www.fcclainc.org](http://www.fcclainc.org))*

Power of One Unit – Family Ties

National Program – Families First

STAR Event

- Illustrated Talk,
- Interpersonal Communications,
- National Programs in Action (Families First)
- Advocacy (Children's Rights)

#### Optional/Additional Learning Activities/Follow up:

- Case studies on various family situations
- Trip to visit a courtroom or judges chambers
- Foster Care--Add section, speaker and/or videos on foster care - <http://www.fostercarekansas.org/> (Copyright 2013)

Handout 8.1

## Calculating Child Support Handout

**Directions:** Use this handout to practice how child support is determined; noting this money is then to be used to meet the child/children's needs.

Number of children who are the subject of the pending action:

Number of children between 0-5:

Number of children between 6 -11:

Number of children between 12 – 18 (This is the most expensive time)

- a. **Gross** Monthly Income from **both** parents: \$
- b. Amount of monthly child support paid children from a prior marriage by Non-Custodial Parent: \$
- c. Amount of monthly **alimony** paid to spouse from a prior marriage by Non-Custodial Parent: \$
- d. Monthly cost of daycare paid by Non-Custodial Parent: \$
- e. Monthly cost of family group health insurance paid by Non-Custodial Parent: \$
- f. Gross Monthly Income of **Custodial Parent**: \$
- g. Amount of monthly child support paid for children from a prior marriage by Custodial Parent: \$
- h. Amount of monthly alimony paid to spouse from a prior marriage by Custodial Parent: \$
- i. Monthly cost of daycare paid by Custodial Parent: \$
- j. Monthly cost of family group health insurance paid by Custodial Parent: \$

## FACT & FUNCTION

**Directions:** Using the columns below write facts you discovered and next to it write in your words how that fact applies to society.

FACT	FUNCTION
<p><i>EXAMPLE:</i> There is not a local Department of Children and Families in every Kansas County.</p>	<p><i>EXAMPLE:</i> Any one can go to any local DCF office to receive services.</p>

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# ABA Family Legal Guide

## Family Law

### Children

#### Rights and Responsibilities of Parents

##### **What are the rights of parents?**

Parents have a right to direct the care, control, and upbringing of their children for as long as they are minors. This gives them the power to make various decisions on behalf of the child, including where to live, what school to attend, what religion to follow, and what medical treatment to obtain. Normally, the state will not interfere in these decisions. Only in life-threatening or extreme situations will the courts step in to overrule the parents' decisions. For example, if a child might die without the medical care that the parents refuse to provide, a judge may make the child a ward of the state and order that the care be provided. Parents have been prosecuted for withholding medical treatment from seriously ill children. This is true even in situations where parents act out of religious belief.

There may be certain medical procedures that the law allows "mature minors" to decide upon for themselves, even if their parents disagree. For example, parents have no absolute veto power over a minor's decision to use contraceptives or to obtain an abortion. In addition, some states allow children of a certain age to seek mental health treatment or treatment for venereal disease without notification of the parents.

Parents also have the legal authority to control their children's behavior and social lives. Parents may discipline or punish their children appropriately. They may not, however, use cruel methods or excessive force; that constitutes child abuse.

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# ABA Family Legal Guide

## Family Law

### Children

#### Rights and Responsibilities of Parents

##### **What are the legal rights of children?**

Children have a unique status under the law. The law defines children as unmarried persons under the age of majority--usually eighteen--who have not left home to support themselves. The law protects children from abuse and neglect. It also entitles them to the protection of the state. Children may be removed from their home if it is necessary to ensure them a safe, supportive environment. This removal may be temporary or permanent.

Children have a right to be supported by their parents. At minimum, this means food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and education.

The law allows children to sue. However, in most instances an adult legal representative must begin the suit. The representative is often referred to as **guardian ad litem** for the child, or as **next friend**.

From the Kansas Department of Health and Environment: ([www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov) )

Kansas total birth numbers for 2010 = 40,439

Under 18 = 1142 (3%)

10 - 18 = 36

15 - 19 = 3843

20 - 24 = 10,778

25 - 29 = 12,529

30 - 34 = 8857

35 - 39 = 3500

40 - 44 = 754

45 - 60 = 55

NS = 7

**Unit 8: Kansas Paternity Law**

**Possible Questions That May Arise Reference Sheet**

Q. What happens when an adult male (18 or older) is identified as the father and the mother is a minor?

A. The age of consent is 16. As long as the minor mother is over 16 when she got pregnant there's not going to be any criminal repercussions in all likelihood. The minor mother usually brings the lawsuit in the name of their parents, who are old enough to bring lawsuits.

Q. How does the state collect money from a teen father if he does not have a job, may be going to school? Is he forced to get a job? Does the father's parent have to pay if he is a minor?

A. Teen fathers are not treated any different than any other man. Age is irrelevant. He might be in school but child support would be based upon minimum wage and he would be expected to support the child. A teen boy's parents do not pay for him. They can, but they can't be forced to take on his responsibility. When minor dads are involved, his parents are in the lawsuit not to make them liable, but to make sure they are aware the suit is being pursued against their minor son.

Basically the rules are the same for minors as they are for adults except the parents are involved just because it's a lawsuit, not because they are going to be made liable for their grandchildren.

Q. What is shared physical custody?

A. When the child lives with both parents for the same amount of time. This is usually done when parents live near to each other.

Q. Is grandparent placement considered non-parental custody?

A. Yes. Non-parental custody is sometimes granted for a temporary time if the parents are unable to care for the child.

Q. Can the residence of a child ever be changed?

A. Until the child reaches the age of 18 or graduates from high school the court does have the power to change residency.

Q. Why would the place of residency change?

A. If there is something such as abuse, neglect or drugs on the part of the parent and sometimes the wishes of a teenage child.

Q. What if a parent fails to follow the parental time plan?

A. That parent may be found in contempt of court.

Q. What is mediation?

A. Is processes held outside of the courtroom where the two parents meet with a third party that helps them reach an agreement. The statements used in mediation **cannot** be used in court.

Q. Can a parent be prohibited from seeing their child?

A. Yes. If there is evidence that harm can come to the child when with the parent. Sometimes a third party must accompany the parent on their parenting time.

Q. What are the guidelines for parenting time?

A. According to the Kansas Bar Association:

- The residential parent should have the child ready at the mutually agreed time.
- The residential parent should encourage and make the child feel good about going to visit the other parent.
- The nonresidential parent should pick up and return the child on time unless there is an emergency or the parent has called ahead.
- The nonresidential parent should notify the other parent as soon as possible if unable to keep visitation.
- The nonresidential parent should make the time spent with the child as pleasant as possible by not questioning the child regarding the former spouse's activities, or making promises that cannot be kept, not discussing the faults of the other parent, or by making extravagant gifts.
- Parents should not argue with each other in front of the child.
- The nonresidential parent should not visit the child after drinking or taking illegal drugs.
- The parent should not visit the child at unreasonable hours or take them to unsafe places.

Q. Do biological grandparents have visitation rights?

A. Not if they are adopted by a third party or their parental rights have been severed, but if it is seen to be in the best interest of the child then rights may be granted.

Q. How long does a child receive child support?

A. Until the child reaches age 18 or June 30 after they have graduated high school.

Q. Does the amount of child support ever change?

A. Yes. When the child turns 7 and 16 the parent should contact an attorney or if their income changes.

Q. What if a parent cannot pay child support?

A. They must contact the court trustee immediately.

Q. Does the child support money have to be spent on items directly for the child?

A. It can be spent on clothes, toys, school fees, transportation, food and part of the rent.

Q. Can a parent who is denied their parental time refuse to pay child support?

A. No. They are considered two different items in the state of Kansas, but they can file a motion with the court to have parental time enforced.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Kansas Parenting Law Test

Write the letter of the correct match next to each definition.

- |     |                       |  |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| 1.  | Biological Father     | a. request by the court to appear in court.  |
|     | Biological            | b. parent not living with the child.   |
| 2.  | Mother                | c. legal term for a male who may be legally married, but not living with his wife and not divorced or who may be part of a relationship outside of the marriage. |
| 3.  | Presumed Father       | d. home where the child lives.   |
| 4.  | Alleged Father        | e. parents sharing decision-making power to determine health, education, and welfare of the child.   |
| 5.  | Legal Father          | f. money paid by one parent for the care of the child.   |
| 6.  | Sole Custody          | g. term used when talking about time spent with a child.   |
| 7.  | Joint Custody         | h. male who has sired or transmitted his genes to an offspring.  |
| 8.  | Residential Placement | i. legal term for a male who is married to the biological mother, signed an acknowledgment of paternity, or whose name is on the birth certificate.              |
| 9.  | Divided Custody       | j. siblings are split and live with different parents.   |
| 10. | Parenting Time        | k. legal acknowledgment of the parental relationship between a father and his child.   |
| 11. | Noncustodial Parent   | l. request issued by the court for action.   |
| 12. | Child Support         | m. parent with the primary power to make decisions affecting the health, education, and welfare of the child.  |
| 13. | Alimony               | n. money paid by spouse to the other spouse after a divorce.   |
| 14. | Court Order           | o. female who has conceived and given birth to an offspring.   |
| 15. | Summons               |  |

- p. male whose name appears on the birth certificate, is married to the biological mother or
16. Paternity was determined through paternity testing.
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**Short Essay:**

Answer the following questions as thoroughly as possible.

17. Explain why determining paternity is so important to both parents and child.

18. Describe the legal process for establishing paternity.

## KEY: Kansas Parenting Law

Write the letter of the correct match next to each definition.

- |       |          |                   |  |
|-------|----------|-------------------|--|
| 1.    | <b>h</b> | Biological Father | a. request by the court to appear in court.  |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
|       |          | Biological        | b. parent not living with the child.   |
| 2.    | <b>o</b> | Mother            |  |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
|       |          |                   | c. legal term for a male who may be legally married, but not living with his wife and not divorced or who may be part of a relationship outside of the marriage. |
| 3.    | <b>i</b> | Presumed Father   |  |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
| 4.    | <b>c</b> | Alleged Father    | d. home where the child lives.   |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
|       |          |                   | e. parents sharing decision-making power to determine health, education, and welfare of the child.   |
| 5.    | <b>p</b> | Legal Father      |  |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
| 6.    | <b>m</b> | Sole Custody      | f. money paid by one parent for the care of the child.   |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
| 7.    | <b>e</b> | Joint Custody     | g. term used when talking about time spent with a child.   |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
|       |          | Residential       | h. male who has sired or transmitted his genes to an offspring.  |
| 8.    | <b>d</b> | Placement         |  |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
|       |          |                   | i. legal term for a male who is married to the biological mother, signed an acknowledgment of paternity, or whose name is on the birth certificate.              |
| 9.    | <b>j</b> | Divided Custody   |  |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
| 10.   | <b>g</b> | Parenting Time    | j. siblings are split and live with different parents.   |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
|       |          | Noncustodial      | k. legal acknowledgment of the parental relationship between a father and his child.   |
| 11.   | <b>b</b> | Parent            |  |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
| 12.   | <b>f</b> | Child Support     | l. request issued by the court for action.   |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
|       |          |                   | m. parent with the primary power to make decisions affecting the health, education, and welfare of the child.  |
| 13.   | <b>n</b> | Alimony           |  |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
| 14.   | <b>l</b> | Court Order       | n. money paid by spouse to the other spouse after a divorce.   |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |
| 15.   | <b>a</b> | Summons           | o. female who has conceived and given birth to an offspring.   |
| <hr/> |          |                   |  |

- 
16. **k** Paternity p. male whose name appears on the birth certificate, is married to the biological mother or was determined through paternity testing.
- 

**Short Essay:**

Answer the following questions as thoroughly as possible.

17. Explain why determining paternity is so important to both parents and child.

**Answers will vary, however point of financial commitment and meeting essential needs should be listed.**

18. Describe the legal process for establishing paternity.

**Refer to unit lesson plan. Decide how detailed answers should be or if a step by step listing is expected.**