

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite Explains Common Reasons Behind Parenting Plan Modifications in Florida

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JACKSONVILLE, FL - November 20, 2026 -
Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite, a Jacksonville-based family and criminal law firm, has released guidance outlining the common reasons Florida parents seek changes to an existing parenting plan and the legal standards that govern those requests. The firm's educational effort aims to help families understand the difference between practical motivations for revisiting an arrangement and the legal grounds Florida courts require before approving a change.

According to the firm, children's needs evolve over time, and family circumstances shift in ways that were not always foreseeable when an original order was entered. Changes in a parent's work schedule, adjustments to a child's school schedule, developments in a child's health or educational needs, and shifts in a parent's availability to carry out parenting responsibilities are among the situations that lead parents to reconsider established arrangements.

Relocation represents a distinct category with separate legal requirements under Florida law. The firm notes

that moving a significant distance can affect timesharing in ways that trigger specific statutory procedures, and these situations are evaluated differently from other requested adjustments.

The firm emphasizes a key distinction that often surprises parents. Practical reasons for wanting a change are not the same as the legal grounds necessary for court approval. Modifying a parenting plan or timesharing schedule generally requires a substantial and material change in circumstances that was not anticipated when the last order was entered, along with a determination that the modification serves the child's best interests. Ordinary disagreements between parents or minor inconveniences do not automatically justify a change.

The firm also reminds parents that existing orders remain enforceable unless they are properly changed through the legal process. Informal arrangements between parents, even when mutually agreed upon, do not replace a court order until the order itself is formally modified.

"When we evaluate a proposed change, we look closely at the child's needs, the stability of the current arrangement, and the individual circumstances of each family," said Jay Henderlite, managing partner at Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite. "The question is never simply whether a parent would prefer a different schedule. The question is whether circumstances have genuinely changed in a substantial way and whether the proposed adjustment truly serves the child."

Henderlite added that understanding the applicable requirements before pursuing a request can help parents set realistic expectations. "Families benefit from knowing what the law actually requires at the outset. That understanding allows them to focus their energy on the factors courts consider rather than on matters that fall outside the legal standard."

The firm addresses these and related topics through its podcast, "[When Split Happens](https://sassoguerrerohenderlite.github.io/whensplithappens/)," which discusses divorce and family law matters for Florida audiences. The firm encourages parents considering parenting plan modifications to understand the legal standards that apply to their situation before taking action.

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite is a law firm based in Jacksonville, Florida, specializing in family and criminal law. The firm is the only practice in Northeast Florida with three Board Certified Marital and Family Law experts serving as managing partners. Its family law services include adoption, alimony, child custody and support, collaborative divorce, mediation, military divorce, parenting plans, paternity, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, and modifications. The firm also handles criminal matters, including domestic violence, DUI, drug crimes, and property crimes, serving communities across Northeast Florida.

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Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite is a Jacksonville law firm representing clients in divorce, family law, and domestic violence cases. With three Board-Certified partners, the firm handles custody, support, alimony, and property division with dedication.

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