

## Child Custody

It is incredibly important for custodial agreements to be incorporated into legally binding court orders. This ensures that one parent cannot simply stop following a pre-arranged, informal agreement and that a child does not end up caught in the middle of a custody dispute at home. If the parents cannot voluntarily agree on custodial arrangements, such as visitation rights or holiday schedules, the court may decide for them. Tully Rinckey PLLC's custody attorneys in Buffalo, N.Y. are experienced in helping parents develop and modify child custody agreements. If agreements cannot be negotiated out of court, we are also fully prepared to fight for your parental rights and show the judge which custodial arrangements are in the best interest of your child.

### Types of Custody

#### Temporary custody

: Temporary custody that covers the period during which a case is pending.

#### Physical custody

("residential custody"): Determines who a child will live a majority of the time.

#### Shared custody:

Determines that the child will spend an equal amount of time living with both parents.

#### Split

custody:

One parent has primary physical custody of one or more children and the other parent has primary physical custody of one or more children.

#### Sole legal custody

: Grants one parent the authority to make major decisions relating to the child's education, religion, health care, and general well being.

#### Joint legal custody

:

The parents must agree on major decisions relating to the child's education, religion, health care, and general well being.

#### Modified joint legal custody

: The parents must confer regarding major decisions relating to the child's education, religion, health care and general well being; however, in the event of a disagreement, one parent makes the final decision.

## How We Can Help

Tully Rinckey PLLC's compassionate and aggressive family and matrimonial law attorneys in Buffalo, N.Y. understand the sensitive nature of child custody proceedings. Parents can count on our lawyers to negotiate voluntary custody agreements, prepare and file a custody petition, and petition for temporary custody and child support while your case is pending. We can also petition for modifications to custody orders or for enforcement orders. Courts consider multiple factors when deciding on child custody arrangements and parents need an experienced attorney to gather evidence and compellingly present their findings to the court. Get a knowledgeable child custody lawyer on your side and call Tully Rinckey PLLC today. **Factors Influencing Child Custody in New York State**

A parent's ability to foster a healthy relationship between the child and the other parent

Child preference (in specific circumstances)

Parent availability

Parents' observable behavior in court

Drug or alcohol abuse

Criminal activity

Each parent's home environments

Prior court judgments concerning abuse or neglect

Each parent's mental, emotional and physical health

Opinions of counselors, school officials or family members

Siblings

Voluntary custody agreements

Parent-child relationships

Tully Rinckey PLLC's family and matrimonial law attorneys can represent individuals and families throughout Western New York, including Buffalo, Hamburg, Kenmore, Tonawanda, Amherst, West Seneca, Lackawanna, Cheektowaga, Depew, North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls, and Lockport. Call today to schedule a free initial consultation with one of our family and matrimonial lawyers at 716-439-4700 or e-mail at [info@tullylegal.com](mailto:info@tullylegal.com)

If your legal matter is urgent, call 716-439-4700 to speak to an attorney 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The firm is responsive to the needs of current and prospective clients. We will respond to phone calls within normal business hours and e-mails within hours on the same business day.