

Introducing the Good Dad Act: Promoting Equality and Empowering Fathers

This legislation emphasizes the importance of co-parenting, encouraging fathers to actively participate in their children's upbringing and fostering strong, nurturing relationships. Dr. Bernard Wh Jennings, a Florida Supreme Court Mediator



Miami, Florida Aug 4, 2023 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - We are thrilled to announce the introduction of the Good Dad Act, a groundbreaking bill that aims to put unwed fathers on equal footing with mothers and foster a more inclusive and balanced approach to parenting. This landmark legislation, officially known as House Bill #775, represents a significant step forward in ensuring that fathers are recognized, supported, and empowered in their crucial role within the family unit.

The Good Dad Act recognizes the invaluable contributions that fathers make to their children's lives and seeks to eliminate the societal barriers that have historically hindered their involvement. By promoting gender equality and challenging outdated stereotypes, the bill aims to create a level playing field where both parents are afforded equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities.

Under the provisions of the Good Dad Act, fathers will have enhanced legal rights, including shared custody arrangements, decision-making authority, and visitation schedules that prioritize the best interests of the child. This legislation emphasizes the importance of co-parenting, encouraging fathers to actively participate in their children's upbringing and fostering strong, nurturing relationships. Dr. Bernard Wh Jennings, a Florida Supreme Court Mediator who wrote the initial proposal leading to House Bill #775 said, "The law the "Good Dad Act" is in full effect and has been upheld in several Florida family court cases over the past few weeks.". Unwed Fathers are being recognized as an important part of their children's lives. There is a companion Bill House Bill #1301 "Parenting and Time-sharing of Minor Children". HB#1301 removes the requirement that a party demonstrates who demonstrates the alleged substantial and material change in circumstances which warrants modification of a parenting plan or time-sharing schedule must also demonstrate that the change be unanticipated.

Furthermore, the Good Dad Act addresses the pervasive gender bias often observed in family courts, ensuring that unwed fathers have equal access to legal representation and are granted fair and impartial treatment throughout custody disputes. The Biscayne Gardens Chamber of Commerce has established a Standing Committee – Good Dad Act Committee. The Committees goal is to pass similar legislation in every State across the United States and to help unwed fathers connect with their children. The Committee meets at 8 pm every Tuesday night. The committee has been meeting for the past 4 weeks and has included unwed fathers and supporting women from across the United States. To attend the meeting send a request to: BiscayneGardensChamber@gmail.com. To learn more about and support the effort to pass similar legislation nationwide go to: www.GoodDadAct.com and www.facebook.com/GoodDadAct



San Francisco, California
Bill/Resolution or Legislative Package
Committee on Children, Families,
and Elder Affairs

CS/CSHB 775 — Shared Parental Responsibility after Establishment of Paternity — "Ethan's Good Dad Act"
by Judiciary Committee, Civil Justice Subcommittee; and Reps. Boagasis, Hardison, and others
(CS/CSHB 775) by Judiciary Committee, Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and
Senator Yehremis

The bill clarifies that after the birth of a child a parent may request a determination of parental responsibility and child support and for the creation of a parenting plan and visitation schedule pursuant to ch. 41, § 3. Should such a determination of parental responsibility and child support, a mother retains sole parental responsibility and there is no requirement for visitation.

The bill requires that any action to establish paternity include a determination of parental responsibility and a parenting plan, establish a visitation schedule, and child support. The bill attaches determinations of parental responsibility and visitation to the establishment of paternity for a father under ch. 762, § 3.

The bill also clarifies that an unwed mother and a father who sign a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity or have established paternity through a court judgment are the natural guardians of the child. As such, they are subject to the rights and responsibilities of parents that a married parent would enjoy. If a father has not established paternity, the mother is the natural parent and is entitled to primary residential care and custody of the child.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025.
Title: Good Dad Act (HB 775)

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