

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0222

Sibling visitation rights.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Pelkey, Barlow, Harvey and Jaggi and Senator(s) Driskill

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to sibling visitation rights; establishing
2 visitation rights for siblings as specified; establishing
3 procedures to allow a sibling to commence an original
4 action to establish visitation rights with other siblings;
5 providing a definition; authorizing courts to grant
6 reasonable visitation rights for siblings when it is in the
7 best interests of the siblings; and providing for an
8 effective date.

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10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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12 **Section 1.** W.S. 20-7-103 is created to read:

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14 **20-7-103. Establishing sibling visitation rights.**

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1 (a) A sibling who has reached the age of majority,
2 or, if a minor, through a next friend selected by him or a
3 guardian appointed by the court, may bring an original
4 action in a district court having jurisdiction against any
5 person having custody of another sibling to establish
6 reasonable visitation rights between the siblings. If the
7 court finds, after a hearing, that visitation would be in
8 the best interests of the siblings and the rights of either
9 sibling's parents or custodians are not substantially
10 impaired, the court shall grant reasonable visitation
11 rights for the siblings.

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13 (b) An action under this section may be brought
14 without regard to the divorce of the parents, an adoption
15 or other action terminating the rights of either parent or
16 both parents, or placement of the child under child
17 protection statutes of this state. Any visitation order
18 issued by a court under this section shall specify the
19 terms of visitation between siblings, but in no case shall
20 visitation occur in the home of a custodial parent who has
21 been convicted of neglect, abuse or sexual abuse of a
22 child, unless strict supervision is ordered by the court.

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1 (c) In any action or proceeding in which visitation
2 rights have been granted under this section, the court may
3 for good cause shown revoke or amend the visitation rights
4 granted to a sibling.

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(d) As used in this section, "sibling" means a full biological brother or sister, a half biological brother or sister, or a stepbrother or stepsister.

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10 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2015.

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12 (END)