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SECOND REPRINT

S.B. 25

SENATE BILL NO. 25—SENATOR O’CONNELL (BY REQUEST)

PREFILED JANUARY 19, 2001

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYWOMAN BERMAN

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing granting of rights to visitation with child to persons other than parents of child. (BDR 11-45)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to domestic relations; revising the provisions governing the granting of rights to visitation with a child to persons other than the parents of the child; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     **Section 1.** NRS 125C.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2     125C.050 1. Except as otherwise provided in ~~subsection 3,~~ *this*  
3     *section*, if a parent of an unmarried minor child:  
4         (a) Is deceased;  
5         (b) Is divorced or separated from the parent who has custody of the  
6     child;  
7         (c) Has never been legally married to the other parent of the child, but  
8     cohabitated with the other parent and is deceased or is separated from the  
9     other parent; or  
10        (d) Has relinquished his parental rights or his parental rights have been  
11     terminated,  
12     the district court in the county in which the child resides may grant to the  
13     great-grandparents and grandparents of the child and to other children of  
14     either parent of the child a reasonable right to visit the child during his  
15     minority . ~~if the court finds that the visits would be in the best interests of~~  
16     ~~the child.~~



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- 1     2. If the child has resided with a person with whom he has established  
2 a meaningful relationship, the *district court in the county in which the*  
3 *child resides* also may grant to that person a reasonable right to visit the  
4 child during his minority, regardless of whether the person is related to the  
5 child. ~~if the court finds that the visits would be in the best interests of the~~  
6 ~~child.~~
- 7     3. *A party may seek a reasonable right to visit the child during his*  
8 *minority pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 only if a parent of the child has*  
9 *denied or restricted visits with the child.*
- 10    4. *If a parent of the child has denied or restricted visits with the*  
11 *child, there is a rebuttable presumption that the granting of a right to*  
12 *visitation to a party seeking visitation is not in the best interests of the*  
13 *child. To rebut this presumption, the party seeking visitation must prove*  
14 *by a preponderance of the evidence that it is in the best interests of the*  
15 *child to grant visitation.*
- 16    5. *The court may grant a party seeking visitation pursuant to*  
17 *subsection 1 or 2 a reasonable right to visit the child during his minority*  
18 *only if the court finds that the party seeking visitation has rebutted the*  
19 *presumption established in subsection 4.*
- 20    6. In determining whether ~~to grant a right to visitation to a petitioner~~  
21 ~~pursuant to subsection 1 or 2,~~ *the party seeking visitation has rebutted the*  
22 *presumption established in subsection 4,* the court shall consider:
- 23     (a) The love, affection and other emotional ties existing between the  
24 party seeking visitation and the child.
- 25     (b) The capacity and disposition of the party seeking visitation to:
- 26       (1) Give the child love, affection and guidance and serve as a role  
27 model to the child;
- 28       (2) Cooperate in providing the child with food, clothing and other  
29 material needs during visitation; and
- 30       (3) Cooperate in providing the child with health care or alternative  
31 care recognized and permitted under the laws of this state in lieu of health  
32 care.
- 33     (c) The prior relationship between the child and the party seeking  
34 visitation, including, without limitation, whether the child resided with the  
35 party seeking visitation and whether the child was included in holidays and  
36 family gatherings with the party seeking visitation.
- 37     (d) The moral fitness of the party seeking visitation.
- 38     (e) The mental and physical health of the party seeking visitation.
- 39     (f) The reasonable preference of the child, if the child has a preference,  
40 and if the child is determined to be of sufficient maturity to express a  
41 preference.
- 42     (g) The willingness and ability of the party seeking visitation to  
43 facilitate and encourage a close and continuing relationship between the  
44 child and the parent or parents of the child as well as with other relatives of  
45 the child.
- 46     (h) The medical and other needs of the child related to health as affected  
47 by the visitation.



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1 (i) The support provided by the party seeking visitation, including,  
2 without limitation, whether the party has contributed to the financial  
3 support of the child.

4 (j) Any other factor ~~considered relevant by the court to a particular~~  
5 ~~dispute.~~

6 ~~4.~~ 7. If the parental rights of either or both natural parents of a child  
7 are relinquished or terminated, and the child is placed in the custody of a  
8 public agency or a private agency licensed to place children in homes, the  
9 district court in the county in which the child resides may grant to the  
10 great-grandparents and grandparents of the child and to other children of  
11 either parent of the child a reasonable right to visit the child during his  
12 minority if a petition therefor is filed with the court before the date on  
13 which the parental rights are relinquished or terminated. In determining  
14 whether to grant this right to a ~~petitioner,~~ *party seeking visitation*, the  
15 court must find that the visits would be in the best interests of the child in  
16 light of the considerations set forth in *paragraphs (a) to (j), inclusive, of*  
17 ~~subsection 3.~~ 6.

18 ~~5.~~ 8. Rights to visit a child may be granted:

- 19 (a) In a divorce decree;  
20 (b) In an order of separate maintenance; or  
21 (c) Upon a petition filed by an eligible person:  
22 (1) After a divorce or separation or after the death of a parent, or  
23 upon the relinquishment or termination of a parental right;  
24 (2) If the parents of the child were not legally married and were  
25 cohabitating, after the death of a parent or after the separation of the  
26 parents of the child; ~~or~~  
27 (3) If the petition is based on the provisions of subsection 2, after the  
28 eligible person ceases to reside with the child.

29 ~~6.~~ 9. If a court terminates the parental rights of a parent who is  
30 divorced or separated, any rights previously granted pursuant to subsection  
31 1 also must be terminated, unless the court finds that visits by those  
32 persons would be in the best interests of the child.

33 ~~7.~~ 10. *For the purposes of this section, "separation" means:*

- 34 (a) A legal separation or any other separation of a married couple if the  
35 couple has lived separate and apart for 30 days or more and has no present  
36 intention of resuming a marital relationship; or  
37 (b) If a couple was not legally married but cohabitating, a separation of  
38 the couple if the couple has lived separate and apart for 30 days or more  
39 and has no present intention of resuming cohabitation or entering into a  
40 marital relationship.

41 **Sec. 2.** The amendatory provisions of this act apply to a petition for  
42 visitation that is filed on or after the effective date of this act.

43 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

