

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: S2/25/19 H3/18/19  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 83

By: Senator A. Clark  
By: Representative Capp

### For An Act To Be Entitled

*AN ACT TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNSUPERVISED VISITATION; TO ADDRESS THE TIMELY ENTRY OF ORDERS UNDER THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE CODE OF 1989; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

#### *Subtitle*

*TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNSUPERVISED VISITATION; AND TO ADDRESS THE TIMELY ENTRY OF ORDERS UNDER THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE CODE OF 1989.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-27-325(p)(2)(A), concerning the petitioner's burden to prove that unsupervised visitation is not in the best interest of a child, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) A petitioner has the burden of proving at every hearing that unsupervised visitation is not in the best interest of a child.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-27-325(p)(2), concerning a petitioner's burden to prove that unsupervised visitation is not in the best interest of a juvenile, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

(C)(i) A rebuttable presumption that unsupervised visitation is in the best interest of the juvenile applies at every hearing.

(ii) The burden of proof to rebut the presumption is proof by a preponderance of the evidence.



(D)(i) If the court orders supervised visitation, the parent from whom custody of the juvenile has been removed shall receive a minimum of four (4) hours of supervised visitation per week.

(ii) The court may order less than four (4) hours of supervised visitation if the court determines that the supervised visitation:

(a) Is not in the best interest of the juvenile; or

(b) Will impose an extreme hardship on one (1) of the parties.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 9-27-325, concerning hearings held under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(r)(1) A court shall set a hearing to address the entry of a written order if:

(A) The written order is not provided to the court for entry within the time specified under this subchapter; and

(B) A party files a motion for a hearing to address the entry of the written order.

(2)(A) The court shall conduct a hearing to address the entry of the written order within thirty (30) days from the date on which the motion for a hearing to address the entry of the written order is filed.

(B) A hearing to address the entry of a written order may be the next scheduled hearing in the proceeding if the hearing to address the entry of the written order is being held within thirty (30) days from the date on which the motion for a hearing to address the entry of the written order is filed.

(C) The court is not required to conduct a hearing to address the entry of a written order if the written order is submitted to the court.

(3) The court shall reassign the preparation of the written order as needed.

/s/A. Clark

APPROVED: 3/27/19