



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2007 Wisconsin Act 187**  
[2007 Assembly Bill 685]

**Parenting Plans in Actions  
Affecting the Family**

In an action affecting the family, such as a divorce or action to determine paternity, in which legal custody or physical placement of a child is contested, a parent seeking sole or joint legal custody or periods of physical placement must file a parenting plan with the court. A parenting plan must provide information relating to issues such as the legal custody or physical placement the parent is seeking; where the parent lives and intends to live; the parent's hours of employment; the plan for where the child will attend school; child care arrangements; decision-making related to the child; and any proposed child support or maintenance.

Also, in an action affecting the family in which it appears that legal custody is contested, the court must refer the parties to the director of family court services for possible mediation.

Act 187 requires the clerk of court to provide, without charge, to parties that have a minor child, a copy of the statute relating to parenting plans or a parenting plan form, if a standard form for parenting plans is used in the county, when they file a petition or receive a summons for an action affecting the family. The Act also provides that a mediator must review the nonfinancial provisions of the parenting plan at the initial session of mediation.

The Act requires parties to file a parenting plan with the court within 60 days after the court waives the requirement that the parties attend mediation or within 60 days after the mediator notifies the court that the parties have not reached an agreement, unless the court orders otherwise.

**Effective Date:** Act 187 takes effect on April 11, 2008 and first applies to actions commenced on that date.

**Prepared by:** Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.