



## Equal Parenting Pledge Agreement

**WHEREAS** it is Texas Public Policy to assure that children will have frequent and continuing contact with parents who have shown the ability to act in the best interest of the child;

**AND WHEREAS** the consensus among experts who study the effects of custody arrangements on children is that visitation orders which allow only infrequent (every-other-weekend) visits, or otherwise limit the access of the child to one of their parents, are needlessly detrimental to the mental and emotional development of the child;

**AND WHEREAS** the consensus among experts who study the effects of custody arrangements on children is that visitation arrangements allowing children to have equal or nearly equal access to both parents are most beneficial to the mental and emotional development of the child;

**AND WHEREAS** the Supreme Court of the United States recognizes the fundamental right of parents to the “care, custody, and management of their children”;

**AND WHEREAS** the best interest of the child lies in protecting this fundamental right;

**AND WHEREAS** the act of a custodial parent illegally denying court ordered access to a non-custodial parent is a heinous and prevalent crime in Texas;

**AND WHEREAS** such visitation denial is a felony offense in Texas which is rarely enforced;

**NOW THEREFORE**, in regards to the aforementioned considerations,

I, \_\_\_\_\_

Do hereby pledge to fully support legislation which would benefit children impacted by the divorce or separation of their parents by:

1. Allowing the child equal (or nearly equal) access and time in the custody of each parent; and
2. Enforcement of penalties for the denial of visitation or the exercise of custody of the child by one parent against another; and
3. Revising the formula for child support payment to more accurately reflect the amount of time the child spends with each parent as well as the incomes of each parent.

This agreement made effective as of the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

BETWEEN: \_\_\_\_\_ and All Texans.