

WHY SB'S 545 & 547 MATTER:

The quality of post-divorce parenting by both the mother and the father matter for child well-being:

- The amount of time spent with the non-residential parent at least partly accounts for positive child outcomes
 - when that relationship occurs in the context of positive parenting
 - SB 545 Sec. 5, 2, B, I, iii, v, vi, vii
 - SB 547, Sec. 5A, (1, A, B),
 - There is a dynamic relationship in which
 - the level of conflict,
 - SB 545, Sec. 5, 2, B, ii, vi
 - SB 547, Sec. 5A, (1, C)
 - cooperation between the parents,
 - SB 545, Sec. 5, 2, B, ii, vi
 - SB 547, Sec. 5A, (1, A, C)
 - the quantity of time each parent spends with the child,
 - SB 547, Sec. 5A, (1, A)
 - and the quality of parenting each parent provides
 - SB 545, Sec. 5, 2, A, I, ii, iii, iv
 - SB 545, Sec. 5, 2, B, I, v
 - SB 547, Sec. 5A, (1, A, B)
- all influence each other and influence child well-being**

Characteristics of post-divorce parenting programs that have demonstrated efficacy include:

- a component to educate parents about the impact of high quality parenting by both parents and low inter-parental conflict,
 - SB 545, Sec. 5, 2, B, iii
 - SB 547, Sec. 5A, (1, A, C)
- a component building their motivation to strengthen the quality of their parenting and to not undermine the other parent,
 - SB 545, Sec. 5, 2, B, v, vi
 - SB 547, Sec. 5A, (1, A, B, C)
- active skill-building components which include modeling, role play and feedback,
 - SB 545, Sec. 5, 2, B, I, ii, v, vi
 - SB 547, Sec. 5A, (1, A, C)
- a way to help parents self-assess their need for more intensive work to build their skills for effective parenting and to reduce inter-parental conflict.
 - SB 545, Sec. 5, 2, A, iii, iv, B, vi, vii,

References:

- Sigal, A., Sandler, I. Wolchik, S. & Bravor, S. (2011). Do Parent Education Programs Promote Healthy Postdivorce Parenting, *Family Court Review*, 49, 120-138.
- Riffe, J., Brandon, D., Mulroy, M., & Faulkner, A (2010). Parent education for divorcing couples: Results of a national survey. Extension Service: West Virginia University. Downloaded 10/17/11 from: <http://www.ncfr.org>