

# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §48-9-102

## **§48-9-102. Objectives; best interests of the child.**

(a) The primary objective of this article is to serve the child's best interests by facilitating:

- (1) Stability of the child;
- (2) Collaborative parental planning and agreement about the child's custodial arrangements and upbringing;
- (3) Continuity of existing parent-child attachments;
- (4) Meaningful contact between a child and each parent, and which is rebuttably presumed to be equal (50-50) custodial allocation of the child;
- (5) Caretaking and parenting relationships by adults who love the child, know how to provide for the child's needs, and who place a high priority on doing so;
- (6) Security from exposure to physical or emotional harm;
- (7) Expeditious, predictable decisionmaking and avoidance of prolonged uncertainty respecting arrangements for the child's care and control; and
- (8) Meaningful contact between a child and his or her siblings, including half-siblings.

(b) A secondary objective of this article is to achieve fairness between the parents consistent with the rebuttable presumption of equal (50-50) custodial allocation.