

Types of Conservatorship

Joint Managing Conservatorship (JMC)

- **Definition:** In Texas, this is the most common type of conservatorship. Both parents share decision-making responsibilities about the child’s upbringing, including education, medical care, and moral or religious training.
- **Key Points to Emphasize:**
 - It doesn’t necessarily mean equal physical possession or time with the child.
 - Both parents are involved in significant decisions, but day-to-day decisions may be made by the parent who has the child at that time.
 - One parent might still have the “exclusive right” to make certain decisions, like where the child lives.

Sole Managing Conservatorship (SMC)

- **Definition:** One parent is granted the exclusive right to make significant decisions about the child’s life.
- **Key Points to Emphasize:**
 - The other parent, called the Possessory Conservator, typically still has visitation rights but might have limited decision-making power.
 - SMC is usually awarded when there are concerns about the other parent’s ability to care for the child, such as in cases of abuse, neglect, or substance abuse.

Possessory Conservatorship (PC)

- **Definition:** This is the title often given to the parent who does not have primary custody in an SMC arrangement.
- **Key Points to Emphasize:**
 - The Possessory Conservator has the right to spend time with the child according to a schedule.
 - They may also have input on decisions, but they do not have the final say.

Rights and Duties

- **Standard Rights:** Both parents usually have the right to access school records, attend school activities, and consult with medical professionals, regardless of their conservatorship status.
- **Customizable Arrangements:** Texas courts encourage parents to work together to create a parenting plan that fits their family’s needs, which can be more customized than just following the standard terms.

