

## What is a Geographic Restriction?

- **Explanation:** A geographic restriction is a provision in a custody order that limits where the child can live. It's designed to ensure that both parents have reasonable access to the child and to maintain stability in the child's life.
- **Example:** "A geographic restriction means that you and your child have to live within a certain area, like a specific county or school district, so that both parents can stay involved in the child's life."

## Why Are Geographic Restrictions Used?

- **Explanation:** These restrictions are common in Texas because they help preserve the child's relationship with both parents, especially when one parent has primary custody. The idea is to keep the child close enough so that both parents can participate in their upbringing.
- **Example:** "The court wants to make sure both parents can be a part of the child's daily life, like attending school events or extracurricular activities, so they often set a limit on how far you can move with the child."

## Common Geographic Restrictions

- **Explanation:** The restriction typically limits the child's residence to a specific area, such as a county, city, or school district. The most common is restricting the child's residence to the county where the divorce is filed and any contiguous counties.
- **Example:** "For example, the court might say your child has to live in Dallas County or any counties that touch it. This keeps both parents close enough to share parenting duties."

## What Happens if You Want to Move?

- **Explanation:** If a parent wants to move outside the restricted area, they usually need to get the other parent's consent or go back to court to ask for the restriction to be lifted or modified.
- **Example:** "If you get a new job offer or need to move for some reason, you'll need to either agree with the other parent about the move or ask the court to change the restriction."

# The Impact on the Child

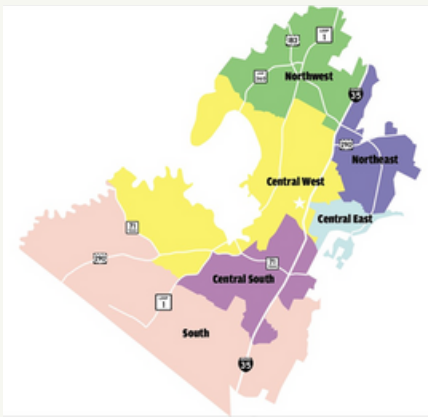
- **Explanation:** Geographic restrictions are meant to provide stability for the child, keeping them in familiar surroundings like their school and community, while allowing both parents to be active participants in their life.
- **Example:** "Keeping your child in the same area means they won't have to switch schools or move away from friends, which helps them feel secure and stable."

## When Geographic Restrictions Might Be Lifted

- **Explanation:** Courts may lift or modify geographic restrictions if circumstances change significantly, such as a new job opportunity far away, remarriage, or if the other parent is not exercising their visitation rights.
- **Example:** "If life changes and it no longer makes sense to stay in the restricted area—like if you get a job in another city—the court might allow you to move if it's in the best interest of the child."

## Examples of Geographic Restrictions

Austin ISD



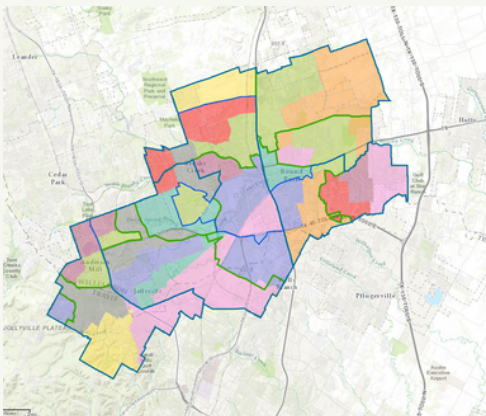
Travis County



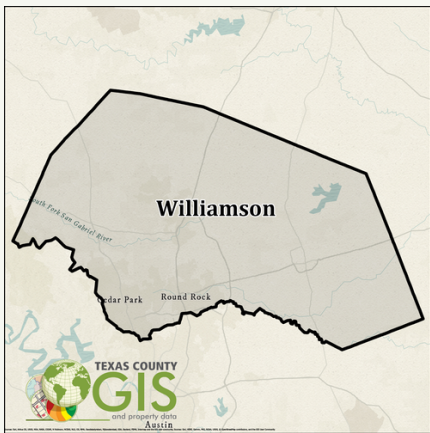
Travis County and Surrounding Counties



Round Rock ISD



Williamson County



Williamson County and Surrounding Counties

