



THE  
Harris Law Firm P.C.  
H

“Colorado’s Divorce and Child Custody Attorneys”

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QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

— *Harrison Ford*  
We all have big changes in our lives that are more or less a second chance.

And or if the child is still in high school or an equivalent program, support will continue until the end of the age of 19.

The parties agree otherwise in a written stipulation; after July 1, 1997, emancipation occurs and child support terminates when a child turns 19 unless one of the following conditions exists:

According to Colorado law, parents are generally obligated to provide child support until a child is emancipated. For child support orders entered in Colorado after July 1, 1997, emancipation occurs and child support terminates when a child turns 19 unless one of the following conditions exists:

EMANCIPATION

the month following graduation. (See Colorado Revised Statutes, § 14-10-115 (1.6).)

Emancipation under existing Colorado law is often a more complicated issue than most people think. Colorado also recognizes different ages of emancipation depending upon the matter in question. For example, under the Colorado Revised Statutes, the age of emancipation for contractual liability is 18, the age of emancipation with regard to child support is 19, and with regard to property issues and most other things the age is 21. A minor under the appropriate age of emancipation will be deemed emancipated if the minor is lawfully married, joins the military, or can otherwise prove that they are living on their own and are self-supporting. It may also be possible to petition the court to grant emancipation, but this is only available in limited circumstances.

In certain circumstances, a child can be deemed emancipated before the age of 19, as this will depend on the degree of independence the child has

The talk show format of KHOW's newest talk show, The Pro Bono Show, sponsored by The Harris Law Firm allows KHOW 630 AM listeners to call and speak directly with the attorneys on the show about their legal issues. The show airs on Sunday morning from 10 am to 12 pm, and Anchor Sponsor, Rich Harris from The Harris Law Firm is on every week from 10 am to 11 am to discuss family law, focusing on divorce and child custody. The second hour alternates between personal injury and employment law.

KHOW'S PRO BONO SHOW

acquired. If you believe your child has become an independent, self-sufficient person prior to his or her 19th birthday, a discussion with an experienced family law attorney can assist you in deciding whether you have good cause to ask the court to terminate your child support obligation.

TO ACCESS THE FULL VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE, PLEASE VISIT <http://www.harrisfamilylaw.com/HYPERTLINK>

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THE  
**Harris Law Firm P.C.**

*Helping Couples, Parents, Grandparents and, most importantly,  
Children deal with the effects of divorce and separation.*

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### COLORADO LAW NEWS FROM OUR STATE CAPITOL

**A BILL TO ELIMINATE THE 90-DAY DIVORCE WAITING PERIOD: DEFEATED.**

The Judiciary Committee defeated HB 1022 - Concerning the Elimination of the 90-day waiting period for parties to obtain a decree of dissolution. The Family Law Section testified in opposition to the change. The sponsor of the bill tried to amend the bill by reducing the waiting period to 20-days where children are not involved and the parties enter into a stipulation on all issues. The Judiciary Committee decided to keep the status quo on the waiting period.

**A BILL TO STRIP JUDGES OF THE AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE PARENTING CLASSES: DEFEATED.**

The Judiciary Committee defeated HB 1110 - Concerning Parenting Time. This bill would have removed the court's ability to order parties attendance at Parenting after Divorce Classes. Additionally, it would have required courts to seal prepared psychological or medical reports or data obtained as part of a proceeding concerning the allocation of parental responsibilities.

**A BILL ON MAKING DIVORCE RECORDS CONFIDENTIAL: PASSED IN COMMITTEE, BUT SENT ON FOR FURTHER ACTION**

The Judiciary Committee approved HB 1169 - Limiting Access to Domestic Relations Cases. The committee sent the bill to the floor on a unanimous 11-0 vote. The bill requires the court to make the following confidential: financial affidavits, parenting plans, records of interviews between a child and judge, guardian ad litem reports, marital agreements, schedules itemizing the property and liabilities in stipulation agreements, and attachments to stipulation agreements that include parental responsibilities. The bill does require, however, that a summary parenting plan be prepared by the attorneys or the parties and submitted to the court; such summary will not be confidential.

**A BILL TO DEAL WITH ATTORNEY'S FEES FOR "UNJUSTIFIABLE CONDUCT": SENT TO COMMITTEE.**

The remaining Domestic Relations bill HB 1111 - Concerning Attorney Fees for "Unjustifiable Conduct" was sent to the Appropriations Committee. As introduced, the bill required judges to award

### NEW ASSOCIATE ATTORNEYS

The Harris Law Firm is proud to announce that Michael Cheroutes and Kevin Massaro have joined The Harris Law Firm P.C., as associate attorneys.

Michael Cheroutes obtained his law degree from the University of Texas Wesleyan University and combines big-firm experience with a personal approach that allows him to offer outstanding legal representation to a wide range of clients. Mr. Cheroutes has represented men and women throughout the metropolitan Denver area in all matters related to family law.

Kevin Massaro graduated from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, and brings over 11 years of legal experience to the firm. Kevin provides his clients with a wealth of experience and skillful and competent representation in matters that pertain to child custody and divorce. Kevin is a guest lecturer with the Denver Pro Se Divorce Clinic, and a Volunteer with Arapahoe County Metro Volunteer Lawyers.

The Harris Law Firm welcomes  
Michael and Kevin!

attorney fees if a party engages in unjustifiable conduct in discovery. The bill's sponsor asked the committee to amend the bill by dropping the original version of the bill and substituting the bill with an amendment that encourages the parties to keep their financial information current with the court. The amendment also allows a court to impose attorney fees for willful and unjustifiable violations of the discovery requirements. The amended bill prohibits appeals on the award of attorney fees for failing to update financial information with the court.

### THE SINGLE PARENTS GUIDE TO SUMMER VACATION

During the school year it can be a challenge for single parents to keep their children supervised and occupied. When summer vacation arrives and accompanying school activities are no longer available, this issue can become even more complex. For single parents who are concerned about what to do with their children while they are busy at work, we have gathered some helpful suggestions.

1. Let your children help plan daily activities. Allow your children to participate when plans are being made for school vacations. Children are more open to such arrangements when they have had the opportunity to provide their input.
2. Make sure young children can spend time with fun and interesting people. Spending time with grandparents, favorite family members, or neighbors can be a special treat for your child. Other possible alternatives for positive interactions include the parents of your children's friends, summer school teachers and camp counselors.
3. Locate organizations that have programs for children. Community parks, recreation centers, camps, religious organizations, YMCA camps, health club day camps, etc. are groups accustomed to planning activities for children. Organizations that provide youth programs can help make the school break go more smoothly for you and your child.
4. If children will be spending part of the time home alone:
  - Discuss what to do in case of emergencies.
  - Leave a number where you can be reached.
  - Leave kids a list of choices for snacks or for lunch.
  - Make a list of possible activities other than TV or the computer.
  - Assign specific chores or activities for helping out around the house.
5. Check out books, videos, and DVDs from your local library.
6. Help your children set up babysitting jobs, car washes, lemonade stands, or even a lawn care or dog walking service for your neighborhood.
7. Set aside time to spend with each of your children individually.
8. Give your child something special to look forward to. Having a special event to look forward to during a school holiday, can help a child get through the time when you have to take care of other responsibilities.
9. If the school break arrangements are not to your child's liking and cannot be changed, be open to hearing your child's feelings. Children who feel that the adults who love them hear, understand and accept their feelings can help the difficult times go more smoothly.
10. Take care of yourself so you have the energy you need for your children. Take some time for yourself to ensure you have the energy to enjoy this extra time with your children.