

## Grandparent and Third Party Custody

### Indianapolis Grandparent Visitation Lawyers

If you are seeking answers regarding your rights to visitation as a grandparent or your rights to custody as a third party, our attorneys at Ruppert & Schaefer, P.C., can help. We stay up to date on the latest changes in Indiana family laws and will be able to guide you through any issues you are having.

We listen carefully to our clients' needs, concerns, and hopes for the future. We understand that your relationship with your family is important, and we will strive to ensure that your best interests and the interests of your loved ones are protected.

Call us at 317.580.9295 or contact our law firm online to arrange for a consultation.

### Assisting Grandparents With Their Visitation Rights

As experienced family law attorneys, we have helped numerous grandparents achieve their visitation goals. There are several occasions that arise, which allow grandparents to seek visitation rights, including:

- The grandparent's child is deceased
- The marriage of the child's parents has been dissolved
- The child is born out of wedlock and the child's father has established paternity
- Visitation is in the best interests of the child according to the court

Grandparents may not petition for visitation rights when the marriage of the parents is still intact. Also, the right for visitation is usually not extended to a step-grandparent. Our family law attorneys will explain all of your options to you and guide you down the right path. Simply because you do not qualify for visitation rights does not mean that you do not qualify for third party custody rights.

### Third Party Custody Issues in Indiana

Third party custody issues arise when a person who is not the parent of a child has custody of the child or is seeking custody. Indiana law presumes that the custody of the child should be with that child's natural parents. This presumption, called parental presumption, is a strong one. It can only be overcome by a strong showing that the best interests of the child are served by placing him or her with the third party.

The type of evidence that has to be presented to overcome the parental presumption is called clear and convincing evidence. This evidence has a higher burden of proof than normal family law issues. Issues involving third party custody can become complicated very quickly. It is important to consult with an experienced attorney who has handled these types of cases before. Our lawyers at Ruppert & Schaefer have an extensive understanding of the laws in this area and can help you resolve your problems.

### Contact Us Regarding Grandparent Visitation and Non-Parent Custody Issues

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Serving clients in Central Indiana and the North Side of Indianapolis, including the cities of Indianapolis, Brownsburg, Greenfield, Westfield, Carmel, Zionsville, Avon, Fishers, New Palestine, Noblesville, and Greenwood, as well as Marion County, Hamilton County, Hendricks County, Boone County, Johnson County, and Hancock County.