

# **2021 Wisconsin Act 35 Changes to DCF 150**

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# State Models and Perceived Fairness

- Percentage of Income
- Shared Income\*
- Melson Formula (Hybrid of the above)

\*Recent studies show that the public perceives the shared income model as the fairest. Wisconsin's shared time formula is a shared income calculation and widely used but since percentage of income was the primary calculation method in DCF 150, the public was not aware.



# Act 35

Recommended by the 2018 Legislative Council Study Committee on Child Placement and Support (SB105)

- Technical Cleanup
- Codifies Current Practices
- No Changes to the formulas to calculate support
- Shared Placement formula no longer a “special circumstance”
- Maintains Years of Practice and Case law
- Effective December 1, 2021



# Changes to DCF 150

## New vs. Old

- Title
    - “Child Support Standard”
  - Primary Formula
    - Shared Placement
    - There is still some discretion here.  
(a) “The shared-placement formula *may* be applied when both of the following conditions are met...”
  - Income
    - Designated Percentage
- Title
    - “Child Support Percentage of Income Standard”
  - Primary Formula
    - Percentage of Income Standard
  - Income
    - Appropriate Percentage

