

2021 Wisconsin Act 35 Changes to DCF 150

Jill Mueller, DCF Attorney

Katherine Marek, BCS Policy Automation Specialist



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

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

