

**Chapter:** 127

**Session:** 2018 Regular Session

**Topic:** Joint petitions for custody and parenting time; filing petitions for custody

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### Overview

This act allows joint petitions for custody, parenting time, and child support to be filed in family court when the parties agree on all the issues in the case.

#### Section

**1 Commencement of custody proceedings.** Provides new procedures for custody and parenting time petitions filed in family court, as well as allows joint petitions for custody and parenting time and provisions that apply to those petitions and court orders.

**Subd. 1 Procedure.** Allows a joint petition in divorce and custody matters to be used by parties who agree on issues of custody, parenting time, and child support.

**Subd. 2. Required notice.** No changes to this section.

**Subd. 3. Summons; joint petition.** Allows a joint petition to be filed without a summons.

**Subd. 4. Social Security numbers; financial documents.** Provides that Social Security numbers and financial documents filed in cases under this section will be in a separate nonpublic court filing.

**Subd. 5. Recognition of parentage (ROP).** Provides that a copy of the ROP will be filed with a joint petition for custody and parenting time.

**Subd. 6. Requirements; joint petition.** Provides that when a ROP has been signed and there is no other alleged or presumed father, and when the parties agree on all issues related to custody, parenting time, and child support, the parties can use a joint petition which includes the information required in this section.

**Section**

**Subd. 7. Approval.** Provides that court can approve the joint petition without a hearing when the parties are both represented by counsel and the petition appears to be in the best interest of the children.

**Effective date.** This section applies to cases commenced on or after August 1, 2018.