

Subject Parenting time consultants; family law

Authors McDonald and Scott

Analyst Mary Davis

Date March 11, 2026

Overview

This bill creates qualifications, limitations, and discharge requirements for parenting time consultants. Parenting time consultants are used in divorces and custody cases where the parties have trouble agreeing and frequently dispute issues around visitation. This bill also makes evidence from parenting consultants inadmissible in court, including evaluations and recommendations.

Summary

| Section | Description |
|---------|-------------|
|---------|-------------|

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | <p>Other agreements.</p> <p>Provides parameters for “parenting time consultants” in statute including qualifications, limitations, discharge, and notice to the court.</p> <p>Requires a parenting time consultant to meet the qualifications in statute for a parenting time expeditor or meet the qualifications of a marriage and family therapist as required by law.</p> <p>Provides that a parenting consultant can assist the parties in disputes but cannot modify a custody order or change the parenting time awarded.</p> <p>Allows a party to discharge a parenting consultant with written notice to the consultant, all parties, and the court. This section also allows the court to discharge a parenting consultant who is not serving the best interest of the child.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Decisions of parenting time consultant.</p> <p>Provides that decisions of a parenting time consultant are not binding on parties or the court in divorce and custody cases. This section requires the court to treat evidence from parenting time consultants, including evaluations and recommendations, as inadmissible in family law cases.</p> |



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn.gov/hrd | 651-296-6753 | Third Floor, Centennial Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155