L A W R E N C E L A W R E N C E DIVORCE & FAMILY LAWYERS		Types of Child Custody in New Jersey			Lawrence Law 744 Mountain Blvd. Watchung, NJ 07069	
Sole Legal Custody	Legal Custody	Split Custody	Physical Custody	Sole Physical Custody	Joint Physical Custody	Shared Physical Custody
One parent is granted sole authority to make significant life decisions for the child. The court usually awards this when the other parent has demonstrated a lack of ability to cooperate or has shown behavior that is not in the child's best interests. It is very rare for one parent to have sole legal custody.	Legal custody determines which parent has the authority to make significant decisions about the child's upbringing, including their education, safety, healthcare, and religious instruction.	This custody is less common but involves dividing siblings between the parents. A judge may only approve this arrangement if it is in the children's best interests, which is often difficult to establish.	Physical custody refers to where the child lives and how much time they spend with each parent.	This arrangement grants one parent the primary responsibility for the child's daily living and care. The non-custodial parent may have parenting time rights. Sole physical custody is typically awarded when one parent demonstrates that the other parent is unfit or unable to provide a safe, stable home environment. It is very rare for one parent to have sole physical custody.	Joint physical custody means the child spends significant time living with both parents. This arrangement works best when both parents live relatively close to each other and can cooperate effectively.	Shared custody resembles joint custody but provides nearly equal parenting time for both parents. A 50/50 physical custody arrangement may be when both parents are equally capable, available, and it suits the child's needs and best interests.

For many parents, determining a child custody agreement is the most heated part of the divorce process. For this reason, among others, you should always proceed with a competent and compassionate New Jersey family lawyer in your corner. Fortunately, you are in the right place.

To schedule a consultation, contact us at (908) 645-1000. For more information on child custody, visit () www.lawlawfirm.

© 2025 Lawrence Law Firm. All rights reserved.