



Fathers and
Families

The Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc.
an affiliate of the American Coalition of Fathers and Children

“Working to Keep Fathers and Families Together”

MEMO IN SUPPORT OF PARENTING TIME TERMINOLOGY LEGISLATION

Bill Numbers: **S468**

Sponsors: Senator Stephen **Saland**

The New York State Legislature has recently recognized the value of terminology in shaping perceptions by passing changes in the State Constitution to make it inclusive of both genders. This same logic needs to be applied equally to parents in relation to their roles as parents to their children in post divorce/separation scenarios in our family courts. Currently the term “visitation” is used when the courts speak of the time that a parent spends with their children. Where there was once a parent who raised and nurtured their child there is now a “visitor” in the child’s life. If we reduce parents to “visitors” in children’s lives parents will start acting like visitors instead of parents. If we want parents to act like parents shouldn’t we refer to them in parental terms and not marginalize them with terms other than those that speak of their parental roles and responsibilities?

FaFNY supports legislation that would change the term “visit” and “visitation” to “Parenting Time” reflecting the true nature of the parent child relationship to all parties, both inside and outside of the family.

This Bill would:

- Eliminate the term “visitation” and replace it with the term “parenting time”.