

BY REP. GRUENBERG BY REQUEST

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 513

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to child support for certain chil-
7 dren who are not minors and representation of their
8 interests during certain proceedings."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 25.24.060(c) is amended to read:

11 (c) Mediation shall be conducted informally as a conference or
12 series of conferences. The parties to the action and a court-
13 appointed representative of any unmarried [MINOR] children of the mar-
14 riage under the age of 19 whose interests may be affected shall at-
15 tend. Counsel for the parties may attend all such conferences.

16 * Sec. 2. AS 25.24.140(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) During the pendency of the action, the court may provide by
18 order

19 (1) that one spouse pay an amount of money as may be neces-
20 sary to enable the other spouse to prosecute or defend the action;

21 (2) for the care, custody, and maintenance of the minor
22 children of the marriage and for the care and maintenance of unmarried
23 18-year-old children of the marriage who are actively pursuing a high
24 school diploma or its equivalent and living with a parent, guardian,
25 or designee of the parent or guardian, during the pendency of the
26 action;

27 (3) for the freedom of one spouse from the control of the
28 other spouse during the pendency of the action.

29 * Sec. 3. AS 25.24.170(a) is amended to read:

1 (a) Subject to AS 25.20.110, any time after judgment the court,
2 upon the motion of either party, may set aside, alter, or modify so
3 much of the judgment as may provide for alimony, for the appointment
4 of trustees for the care and custody of the minor children or for
5 their nurture and education, for the care, nurture, and education of
6 unmarried 18-year-old children of the marriage while they are actively
7 pursuing a high school diploma or its equivalent and living with a
8 parent, guardian, or designee of the parent or guardian, or for the
9 maintenance of either party to the action.

10 * Sec. 4. AS 25.24.200(a) is amended to read:

11 (a) A husband and wife together may petition the superior court
12 for the dissolution of their marriage under AS 25.24.200 - 25.24.260
13 if the following conditions exist at the time of filing the petition:

14 (1) incompatibility of temperament has caused the irremedi-
15 able breakdown of the marriage;

16 (2) if there are unmarried [MINOR] children of the marriage
17 under the age of 19 or the wife is pregnant, the spouses have agreed
18 on which spouse or third party shall be awarded custody of each minor
19 child of the marriage and the extent of visitation, including visita-
20 tion by grandparents and other persons, and support to be provided on
21 the children's behalf, whether the payments are to be made through the
22 child support enforcement agency and the tax consequences of that
23 agreement;

24 (3) the spouses have agreed as to the distribution of all
25 jointly owned real and personal property and the payment of spousal
26 support, if any, and the tax consequences resulting from these pay-
27 ments; and

28 (4) the spouses have agreed as to the payment of all unpaid
29 obligations incurred by either or both of them, and as to payment of

1 obligations incurred jointly in the future.

2 * Sec. 5. AS 25.24.210(e) is amended to read:

3 (e) If the petition is brought by both spouses under AS 25.-
4 24.200(a), the petition shall state in detail the terms of agreement
5 as between the spouses with regard to the custody of children, child
6 support, visitation, spousal support and tax consequences, if any,
7 division of property, and allocation of debts, and, in addition, shall
8 state

9 (1) the respective occupations of the spouses;

10 (2) the income, assets, and liabilities of the respective
11 spouses at the time of filing the petition;

12 (3) the date and place of the marriage;

13 (4) the name, date of birth, and current marital, educa-
14 tional, and custodial status of each [MINOR] child born of the mar-
15 riage or adopted by the petitioners who is under the age of 19;

16 (5) whether the wife is pregnant;

17 (6) other facts and circumstances which the petitioners
18 believe should be considered; and

19 (7) any other relief sought by the spouses.

20 * Sec. 6. AS 25.24.230(c) is amended to read:

21 (c) The court shall dismiss or continue an action brought under
22 AS 25.24.200 - 25.24.260 before findings are made if

23 (1) a representative of the unmarried [MINOR] children who
24 are under the age of 19 objects to a term of any of the agreements
25 between the spouses;

26 (2) either of the spouses withdraws from any of the agree-
27 ments required under AS 25.24.200(a); or

28 (3) the petition alleges that the conditions in AS 25.24.-
29 200(b) exist, but the whereabouts of the absent spouse becomes known

1 to the other spouse or the court before findings are made.

2 * Sec. 7. AS 25.24.310(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) In an action involving a question of the custody, support,
4 or visitation of a child [MINOR], the court may, upon the motion of a
5 party to the action or upon its own motion, appoint an attorney or the
6 office of public advocacy to represent a minor with respect to the
7 custody, support, and visitation of the minor or in any other legal
8 proceeding involving the minor's welfare or to represent an unmarried
9 18-year-old child with respect to post-majority support while the
10 child is actively pursuing a high school diploma or its equivalent and
11 living with a parent or guardian or a designee of the parent or guard-
12 ian. When custody, support, or visitation is at issue in a divorce,
13 it is the responsibility of the parties or their counsel to notify the
14 court that such a matter is at issue. Upon notification, the court
15 shall determine whether the minor or other child should have legal
16 representation or other services and shall make a finding on the
17 record before trial. If the parties are indigent or temporarily
18 without funds, the court shall appoint the office of public advocacy.
19 The court shall notify the office of public advocacy if the office is
20 required to provide legal representation or other services. The court
21 shall enter an order for costs, fees, and disbursements in favor of
22 the state and may further order that other services be provided for
23 the protection of the minor or other child.

24 * Sec. 8. AS 25.24.310(c) is amended to read:

25 (c) Instead of, or in addition to, appointment of an attorney
26 under (a) of this section, the court may, upon the motion of either
27 party or upon its own motion, appoint an attorney or other person or
28 the office of public advocacy to provide guardian ad litem services to
29 a child [MINOR] in any legal proceedings involving the child's

1 [MINOR'S] welfare. The court shall require a guardian ad litem when,
2 in the opinion of the court, representation of the child's [MINOR'S]
3 best interests, to be distinguished from preferences, would serve the
4 welfare of the child [MINOR]. The court in its order appointing a
5 guardian ad litem shall limit the duration of the appointment of the
6 guardian ad litem to the pendency of the legal proceedings affecting
7 the child's [MINOR'S] interests, and shall outline the guardian ad
8 litem's responsibilities and limit the authority to those matters
9 related to the guardian's effective representation of the child's
10 [MINOR'S] best interests in the pending legal proceeding. The court
11 shall make every reasonable effort to appoint a guardian ad litem from
12 among persons in the community where the child's [MINOR'S] parents or
13 the person having legal custody or guardianship of the child's [MI-
14 NOR'S] person reside. When custody, support, or visitation is at
15 issue in a divorce, it is the responsibility of the parties or their
16 counsel to notify the court that such a matter is at issue. Upon
17 notification, the court shall determine if a child's [THE MINOR'S]
18 best interests need representation or if a [THE] minor or other child
19 needs other services and shall make a finding on the record before
20 trial. If one or both of the parties is indigent or temporarily
21 without funds the court shall appoint the office of public advocacy.
22 The court shall notify the office of public advocacy if the office is
23 required to provide guardian ad litem services. The court shall enter
24 an order for costs, fees, and disbursements in favor of the state and
25 may further order that other services be provided for the protection
26 of a [THE] minor or other child.

27 * Sec. 9. AS 47.23.070(a) is amended to read:

28 (a) In a proceeding in which the court has ordered either or
29 both parents to pay for the support of a [MINOR] child, the court may,

1 on its own motion or motion of a party or the agency on behalf of a
2 party, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, order either
3 parent or both parents to assign to the custodian of the child that
4 portion of salary or wages of either parent due them currently and in
5 the future sufficient to pay the amount ordered by the court for the
6 support, maintenance, nurture and education of the [MINOR] child.

7 * Sec. 10. AS 47.23.130(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) To establish or enforce an order of support, based on the
9 subrogation of the state, the agency is not limited to the amount of
10 assistance being granted to the [MINOR] child.