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It is no longer guaranteed that child custody for mother will be awarded by the courts. Mothers must show proof it is best for the child to be with them for the majority of the time. Judges are considering different things when deciding where to place the child. They prefer the child stays in the home they are most familiar. This ensures the child will keep their friends and attend the same school. Other considerations include the amount of time the parent has to spend with the child. Parents that work during the times the child is not in school do not have adequate time to be with the child. No one wants the child to suffer any more than what is unavoidable during the break up of their family.

The courts may give joint custody to both parents. This could be joint physical custody, joint psychological custody, or both. Joint physical custody means that the child will live with both parents, at different times. This is very common; the child spends one week with one parent and the next with the other parent. Joint psychological custody means that both parents have the right to make decisions on the child's schooling, medical situations and religion. If a parent is awarded sole physical custody, it is almost a guarantee there will be joint psychological custody. Sole physical custody does not mean the other parent has no visitation rights. Those will be written as a condition of the divorce.

It is important for mothers to remember they will still have to communicate with their ex. If the court feels the mother is too hostile, or will not be fair when it comes to sharing the child they may deny child custody for mother. The mother may petition the court at a later date to try to change the court's opinion.

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