

How to Navigate the 2026 Family Preparedness Plan Act (AB 495) in Relocation



Successfully managing a relocation case in 2026 requires strict adherence to new legislative mandates, specifically the Family Preparedness Plan Act (AB 495). Jos Family Law provides the technical guidance needed to help parents integrate these requirements into their move-away requests. This guide outlines the essential steps for documenting your relocation plan and ensuring it meets the latest California standards for child safety and caregiving continuity. By following a structured legal approach, you can maximize your chances of securing court approval for your move while protecting your parental rights.

The first step is to establish a compliant Family Preparedness Plan as required under the 2026 code. For residents seeking a [Top Child Custody Lawyer in Lake Forest](#) provides access to specialists who can help you draft the necessary affidavits and guardianship nominations to ensure your child has legally recognized care if you are temporarily unavailable during the moving process. AB 495 expands the list of eligible caregivers to include a broader range of relatives and extended family members. Including these details in your initial filing shows the court that you have prioritized the child's safety and well-being during the transition period.

Next, you must provide formal written notice of the move at least 45 days in advance. This how-to approach involves more than just a letter; it requires a detailed proposal for a modified parenting plan. This plan should address the new "H%" (parenting time) multipliers and include specific provisions for virtual visitation to compensate for the physical distance. The 2026 standards prioritize "frequent and continuing contact," so your proposal must show a realistic schedule for holidays, summer breaks, and digital

interactions. By being proactive with these logistics, you reduce the opportunity for the other parent to argue that the move is "detrimental" to the child's stability.

The final step is to prepare for a potential "de novo" review if you currently share joint physical custody. Unlike sole custody cases, where a presumptive right to move exists, joint custody move-away requests are treated as fresh custody determinations. You must be prepared to prove that the move is in the child's best interest based on the updated 2026 factors, including educational opportunities and proximity to extended family. By following these steps—plan preparation, timely notice, and evidence gathering—you create a robust legal framework that supports your relocation goals and protects your family's future.

In conclusion, the technical requirements of AB 495 have made relocation more complex, but also more structured. By focusing on preparation and transparency, you can navigate the legal hurdles of a move-away case with confidence. These protocols are essential for any parent looking to transition to a new community while maintaining full legal compliance.

For professional assistance with your relocation plan and AB 495 compliance, contact Jos Family Law today. Learn more at: <https://josfamilylaw.com/>.