

Testimony in Support of HB 1039

My name is Jessica Araniz, and I am a parent. I am writing in support of this bill, which would allow parenting plans to include agreed upon provisions that govern the sharing of a child's image and personal information on social media.

This legislation recognizes a reality that family law has not yet fully caught up to:
a child's digital footprint can be just as permanent and harmful as any physical or legal record.

When a child's photo, video, name, or personal details are posted online, they become part of a permanent digital record—one that the child did not choose and cannot meaningfully undo. That content can be copied, downloaded, altered, sold, stored in data systems, and reused far beyond the original platform or audience.

We now live in an era where artificial intelligence can replicate a person's face, voice, and identity from only a few publicly available images. What may appear harmless today can later be used for identity fraud, impersonation, deepfake exploitation, or long-term data profiling. A child whose digital history begins before they can speak may one day face financial, reputational, or psychological harm because of content they never consented to and cannot remove.

This bill is not about limiting parents—it is about **giving families the legal ability to protect their children** by clearly defining expectations and boundaries in a parenting plan.

In shared custody or high-conflict situations, one parent's decision to post a child publicly can permanently expose that child—without the other parent's knowledge or agreement. Without clear language in a parenting plan, courts and parents are left with no framework to resolve disputes, even when the child's safety or privacy is at risk.

There is also a serious safety concern. Bad actors and online predators actively search social media for information about children. Names, locations, school logos, routines, and family schedules can often be inferred from posts that seem harmless. For someone with malicious intent, these details can become a roadmap.

Children are not content.
They are not digital assets.
They are not branding tools.

This bill does not mandate restrictions—it **simply allows parents and courts to address this issue directly** when creating parenting plans. It gives families the option to:

- Set boundaries around what can be posted
- Require mutual consent
- Limit public sharing
- Or prohibit posting altogether if safety is a concern

This legislation acknowledges that digital harm is real harm, and that children deserve protection from risks they cannot yet understand or defend themselves against.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica Araniz