



2025 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 111

Introduced by: **Senator Reed**

1 **An Act to permit a court to order family therapy or reunification therapy in a custody**
 2 **or visitation dispute.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 25-4:**

5 In any custody or visitation dispute between parents, the court may order family
 6 therapy or reunification therapy to assist the parties in formulating or modifying a plan,
 7 or in implementing a plan, for custody or visitation. The court shall allocate the cost of
 8 any therapy ordered between the parties

9 There is a rebuttable presumption that, in a custody or visitation dispute between
 10 parents, it is not in the best interest of the child for the court to order family therapy or
 11 reunification therapy if the court finds:

12 (1) One party has been the victim of domestic abuse, as defined in § 25-10-1,
 13 perpetrated by the other party; or

14 (2) A child involved in the action has been a victim of domestic abuse, as defined in §
 15 25-10-1, perpetrated by one of the parties.