

April 9, 2009

**H 1299. VIRTUAL VISITATION/FAMILY LAW.** Filed 4/8/09. *AMENDING THE LAWS PERTAINING TO CUSTODY OF A MINOR CHILD BY DEFINING VISITATION TO INCLUDE VISITATION BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION.*

Amends new GS 50-13.2 by adding a new subsection (e), which permits an order for custody of a minor child to provide for visitation rights by electronic communication. Defines electronic communication as "contact, other than face-to-face contact, facilitated by electronic means, such as by telephone, electronic mail, instant messaging, video teleconferencing, wired or wireless technologies by Internet, or other medium of communication." Requires the court granting visitation by electronic communication to consider (1) whether electronic communication is in the best interest of the minor child and (2) whether equipment to communicate electronically is available, accessible, and affordable to the parents of the minor child. Allows the court to set guidelines for electronic communication, including the hours for electronic communication, the allocation of costs for such communication, and the furnishing of information necessary to facilitate such communication. Provides that electronic communication may be used to supplement visitation with the child but may not be used as a replacement or substitution for custody or visitation, and requires that the amount of time of electronic communication shall not be a factor in calculating child support or to justify relocation by the custodial parent.

**Intro. by Rapp.**

GS 50

May 11, 2009

**H 1299. VIRTUAL VISITATION/FAMILY LAW.** Filed 4/8/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Clarifies provision relating to supervised visitation to state that electronic communication between the parent and child may be subject to supervision as ordered by the court.

July 20, 2009

**SL 2009-314 (H 1299). VIRTUAL VISITATION/FAMILY LAW. AN ACT AMENDING THE LAWS PERTAINING TO CUSTODY OF A MINOR CHILD BY DEFINING VISITATION TO INCLUDE VISITATION BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION.** Summarized in *Daily Bulletin* 4/9/09 and 5/11/09. Enacted July 17, 2009. Effective July 17, 2009.