

BOISE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026, AT 11:15 A.M.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

JENNIFER FAITH BICKERSTAFF,)
)
 Petitioner-Respondent,)
)
 v.)
)
 RYAN MARTIN BICKERSTAFF,)
)
 Respondent-Appellant.)
)

Docket No. 53588

Appeal from the Magistrate Court of the Fourth Judicial District of the State of Idaho, Ada County. Matthew Haynes, Magistrate Judge.

Gravis Law, PLLC, Boise, and Beard St. Clair Gaffney, PA., Idaho Falls for Appellant.

Goss Gustavel Goss, PLLC, Boise and Cosho Humphrey, LLP, Boise, for Respondent.

This appeal arises from a custody dispute between Jennifer and Ryan Bickerstaff following their divorce proceedings in Ada County. After a three-day trial, the magistrate court entered a judgment permitting Jennifer to relocate the parties’ two young children from Boise, Idaho, to Winter Park, Florida, and establishing a joint custody framework contingent on relocation. The evidence presented at trial indicated the children were thriving in Idaho, and the Parenting Time Evaluator characterized the relocation decision as a “close call,” ultimately clarifying that relocation was permissible but that the decision was best left to the discretion of the court.

On appeal, Ryan argues that the magistrate court abused its discretion by permitting relocation, asserting the court improperly relied on an assumption that he would also move to Florida, failed to adequately weigh factors favoring the children remaining in Idaho, and misapplied Idaho law governing relocation and joint custody. He contends the record does not support a finding that relocation is in the children’s best interests, particularly given their stability and success in Idaho. Jennifer responds that the magistrate court correctly applied the governing legal standards, reasonably weighed the statutory factors, and properly concluded relocation serves the children’s best interests. She further maintains that the court’s findings—including its interpretation of Ryan’s testimony regarding relocation and its evaluation of the evidence—are supported by the record and fall within the bounds of the court’s discretion.