

2021 Kansas Statutes

23-37,208. **Jurisdiction declines by reason of conduct.** (UCCJEA 208). (a) Except as otherwise provided in K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 23-37,204, and amendments thereto, or by other law of this state, if a court of this state has jurisdiction under this act because a person seeking to invoke its jurisdiction has engaged in unjustifiable conduct, the court shall decline to exercise its jurisdiction unless:

- (1) The parents and all persons acting as parents have acquiesced in the exercise of jurisdiction;
 - (2) a court of the state otherwise having jurisdiction under K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 23-37,201 through 23-37,203, and amendments thereto, determines that this state is a more appropriate forum under K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 23-37,207, and amendments thereto; or
 - (3) no court of any other state would have jurisdiction under the criteria specified in K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 23-37,201 through 23-37,203, and amendments thereto.
- (b) If a court of this state declines to exercise its jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (a), it may fashion an appropriate remedy to ensure the safety of the child and prevent a repetition of the unjustifiable conduct, including staying the proceeding until a child-custody proceeding is commenced in a court having jurisdiction under K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 23-37,201 through 23-37,203, and amendments thereto.
- (c) If a court dismisses a petition or stays a proceeding because it declines to exercise its jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (a), it shall assess against the party seeking to invoke its jurisdiction necessary and reasonable expenses including costs, communication expenses, attorney fees, investigative fees, expenses for witnesses, travel expenses, and child care during the course of the proceedings, unless the party from whom fees are sought establishes that the assessment would be clearly inappropriate. The court may not assess fees, costs, or expenses against this state unless authorized by law other than this act.

History: L. 2000, ch. 171, § 50; July 1.