

# Parents agree to custody deal in hotly disputed case

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A former professional football player who was jailed for fleeing with his son has reached a parenting-time deal with the boy's mother.

Kelly Cracchiolo-Evans of Casco Township retains physical and legal custody of her 12-year-old son, and Mark Grabowski keeps his two hours per week of visitation at a third-party location with an immediate plan to increase it to three hours weekly, under the deal, according to Grabowski and his attorney, Felice Iafrate.

An order formalizing the deal was entered Tuesday by Judge Kathryn Viviano of Macomb County Circuit Court in Mount Clemens.

Grabowski, 54, of Hartland Township, declined to comment at the courthouse, but Iafrate said he remained optimistic that Grabowski can gradually increase his contact with his son, Connor.

The parents will undergo joint counseling, and Grabowski retains the right to be notified of Connor's activities, Iafrate said.

Cracchiolo-Evans and her attorney could not be reached for comment Tuesday afternoon.

The custody battle drew national attention in August through September 2012 when Grabowski took Connor to South Dakota without the mother's permission days before Connor was to start classes at Richmond Middle School. She pleaded

on Facebook for his return and Grabowski posted a YouTube video of Connor. He was missing for several days until the FBI located him Sept. 7 on a hunting ranch in Platte, S. D.

Grabowski contends that Cracchiolo-Evans was abusing Connor, but she has denied the abuse and said a Child Protective Services probe cleared her.

Grabowski early this year pleaded to unlawful retention of a child by a parent and in March was sentenced to 90 days in the Livingston County Jail and five years probation, by Judge David Reader of Livingston County Circuit Court.

Livingston County Sheriff Bob Bezotte in May said police were investigating a claim by a handful

**Mark Grabowski (left) appears at a prior court hearing with his attorney, Felice Iafrate.**

Macomb Daily file photo

of Grabowski's fellow jail inmates that he tried to hire someone to kill the judge in his case, among others. But no charges were filed.

Cracchiolo-Evans and Grabowski had a brief relationship, and the custody case has been in court since his birth.

Grabowski is a Wayne State University graduate who spent time as a Detroit Lions practice player.

He said he is working as a driver for a delivery company.

Cracchiolo-Evans attended Richmond and Anchor Bay high schools.

