



Family Law

Parenting Matters

Parenting Arrangements Post Separation

Parenting arrangements need to promote the safety of children, as well as the safety of each person who has care of the child. This includes safety from being subjected to or exposed to family violence, abuse, neglect or other harm.

Some things to think about when decided parenting arrangements post-separation:

✓ Best Interests

Above all else, prioritise the emotional, psychological, and physical well-being of the children.

✓ Communication

Establish clear and respectful communication channels between both parents to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts. Parents can sometimes limit communication to writing or use a parenting app.

✓ Parenting Time and Schedules

Determine a parenting schedule that accommodates the children's routines, schooling, and extracurricular activities, while also considering the work schedules of both parents.

✓ Living Arrangements

Consider the practicalities of living arrangements, including proximity to schools, friends, and extracurricular activities, to minimise disruption.

✓ Decision-Making

Decide how major decisions regarding education, healthcare, and other significant matters will be made, whether jointly or by one parent.

✓ Financial Responsibilities

Agree on the division of financial responsibilities, including child support, education, and healthcare expenses.



Be open to revisiting arrangements as children grow and circumstances change, allowing for adaptability while maintaining stability.

How do I formalise a parenting agreement?



Parenting plan

A written, signed and dated agreement between parents about the arrangements for their child.

Parenting plans create no legal obligations on either parent and are not legally enforceable. However, the court can consider what has been agreed in a parenting plan if you have later court proceedings dealing with parenting issues.



Consent orders

An agreement which can be made after negotiating with the other parent, usually with the help of a lawyer or dispute resolution service. A consent order is filed at, and approved by, the court through an application for consent orders.

Once approved by the court, the consent orders are legally binding as any other court order.



What if we can't agree?

If you can't agree, provided it is safe to do so, you should attempt mediation with your former partner. Mediation is conducted by a neutral third party. It can be lawyer assisted or unassisted.

If mediation is unsuccessful or unsuitable, court proceedings might be necessary. Contact us to find out more.

We can help with:

- ✓ Parenting Plans & Agreements
- ✓ Parenting Arrangements
- ✓ Mediation & Dispute Resolution
- ✓ Court Representation



We also offer Legal Aid and Finance Solutions to help you move forward without financial stress.

Contact Us

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