

# **BAD BEHAVIOR**

It is sometimes difficult to be objective about one's own behavior while experiencing the anger and other emotions that are caused by divorce. The following list was proposed by a judge who wondered, what if kids set the rules for divorce? Following these rules may help keep you from inadvertently harming your children as you go through this difficult transition.

1. There wouldn't be any fighting allowed ever, especially in front of the kids.
2. Parents would tell their kids over and over again that it is not your fault.
3. One parent would never ask the kid questions about the other parent, especially questions that make the kid snitch or feel bad.
4. There would be no secrets between the kid and the parent against the other parent.
5. There would be no name calling.
6. One parent would never use a kid as a confidant, or tell a kid stuff no kid should know about the other parent.
7. There would be no lies.
8. Both parents would explain to kids thoroughly what is going on and what is going to happen. Kids would have a way to get their questions answered.
9. Every kid would have somebody other than a parent they could rely on, talk to and go to for help if they need to.
10. It wouldn't be left up the kids to decide things parents are suppose to decide.
11. Kids would be able to tell parents what they want without feeling bad or guilty.
12. Discipline would be the same (consistent) at both homes.
13. Parents wouldn't be allowed to move more than an hour or so away.
14. Parents wouldn't be allowed to cohabitate with a new partner until enough time had passed so it didn't hurt the people really badly. The same goes for bringing new kids into the home.
15. Parents wouldn't get involved with people who become a part of a kid's life who aren't going to stick around.
16. Exchanges for visits would be at a neutral place or with neutral people Parents would be on time and not cancel visits for no reason.
17. Both parents would come to important events in the kid's life and be nice to each other.
18. Kids could continue to see extended family members as much as possible.
19. Parents would never badmouth extended family members from the other side, especial grandparents.
20. Parents would pay their child support.
21. Parents would never condition visits on payment of child support.
22. Parents would not discuss child support with their kids.
23. Parents would never withhold visits or refuse to visit to punish the kid or the other parent.
24. Kids would never have to take over and be the parent for a parent or for their brothers and sisters.
25. Kids would never have to call the police on their own parent.
26. Parents wouldn't be jealous of the other parent or step-parents.
27. Every kid would feel safe, no matter what.
28. Kids would never be made to feel guilty or disloyal for loving both of their parents.

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