

# COVID-19 – Guidance for Child Arrangements Orders

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*This guide is intended to offer general advice . It is adapted from official guidance.*

*Every situation will be different. If you have any questions, **book your free 15 minute legal advice call on 01274 727373.***

## Parental Responsibility

Rests with the child's parents – not the courts.



## Stay at Home Rules

From 5 November, the UK Government is introducing **new lockdown restrictions** requiring people to stay at home except for specific purposes.



## Deciding whether to move children between homes

The decision to move children between homes will be one for parents.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused many people to worry about their health and the health of their loved ones. If you're not sure whether your child should see the other parent, speak to each other.



## Exception to the Rules

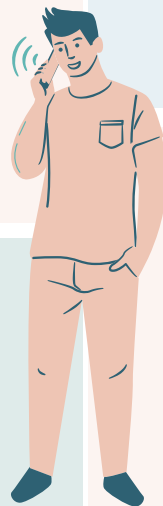
Government Guidance states "where parents do not live in the same household, children under 18 can be moved between their parents' homes."



## Be Sensible

Where it is safe to do so, talk to the co-parent. Ask whether it's safe for your child to move between homes? Be kind to each other.

You may wish to assess the child's present health, the risk of infection and the presence of any recognised vulnerable individuals in one household or the other.



## What if you want to change the Order and the other parent doesn't?

If one parent is worried that contact with the other parent is a risk or against Government Guidelines – they can change the current agreements (under the Child Arrangements Order).

If this is later raised in Family Court, the Court will consider whether the parent who changed the order "acted reasonably."

## If you both agree to change the Child Arrangements Order

Agree the changes with each other in writing (text or email). You can also notify your solicitor.



## Try Phone / Video Calls

Remember – if your child is unable to see the other parent, the Court will expect you to consider alternative arrangements – such as phone or video calls.