WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

Child Arrangements



Making arrangements for children can be the hardest part of a divorce or separation.

Agreeing on key issues as early on as possible will make the divorce process quicker, cheaper and importantly, in the best interests of your child.

Here's a quick guide to some of your options.



It's always best if you and your spouse can agree on arrangements for your child.

If that's not possible, you can apply for a court order. (note: you will need to attend mediation before a court application).



Child Arrangements Order

This is a court order which decides who has responsibility for the care of your child.

The court will decide where your child lives, who they live with, and when and how they will see each parent (the type of contact e.g. phone call). This order is sometimes known as a child custody order or child contact order.



Specific Issues Order

This court application asks the court to consider a specific question - for example:

- changing your child's name
- schooling or religious education
- medical care
- asking permission to move abroad permanently with your child



Prohibited Steps Order

This court application is used by one parent to stop another parent from making certain decisions about their child's upbringing. It's different from a Specific Issues Order, which asks permission to do something (a Prohibited Steps Order is used to prevent something) - for example:

- stopping a parent from moving a child from their school or local area; or moving abroad;
- preventing contact with someone (e.g. your expartner's new partner)



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