



S O L I C I T O R S

SPECIALIST IN FAMILY LAW

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PARENTS DIVIDED – THE CHILDREN

There are very few families who are untouched by the breakdown of a relationship involving children. That can be the mother, father, paternal grandparents; maternal grandparents and indeed step-parents. For the children themselves, their parent separation can cause considerable distress and upset. For all that they desire is for their parents to be reconciled and they frequently have divided loyalties towards one or both of their parents and are often placed in a world of conflict where they are forced to try and “choose” between one parent and the other.



Every parent wants the best for their children and children frequently struggle if they see their parents “at war”. Many children find it difficult to deal with that conflict and are often made to feel it is their fault that they are in this situation. They frequently find it difficult to share their feelings with either parent and their distress can often impact upon, not only their home life, but their education and their future wellbeing and their own view of parenting when they become parents themselves.

There are many issues relating to children which cause difficulties such as:-

- **A Father who is unable to exercise regular contact with his children and who feels that the relationship with his children is marginalized by the other parent or that his contact with his children**
- **A Mother who feels that she is intimidated or bullied by her former partner/husband’s behaviour which impacts upon the children**
- **One or other parent involving the children in adult issues and expecting the children to choose between their parents**
- **Listening to the children’s wishes and their ability to express those wishes openly with either parent**
- **A parent who simply does “as he or she likes” with no respect for the other parent**
- **The inability of one or both parent to communicate with the other**
- **The parent who is unable to accept the other parent’s new partner/relationship who feels threatened by that relationship**

These are all difficult areas, understandably, in the breakdown of any relationship when emotions are riding high and there are practical concerns also to be dealt with. It is hardly surprising that parents find these issues difficult. What is important is that you are able to find the strength to deal with these challenges and to help your children in the best possible way.

With our help, you can do this.



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