

Guide Topics for Child Arrangements



Following a separation/divorce most parents will need to discuss how they will continue to function as a positive co-parenting team. There will be a need to negotiate the delicate balance between what they feel might be their own natural parenting style, remain mindful of the individual needs of the children, avoid unnecessary conflict and misunderstanding with their former partner whilst also working to ensure that the children spend time with each of them.

In mediation, you can decide which issues you personally wish to discuss. Some parents wish to make arrangements for every possible eventuality and others just desire a basic set of guidelines. Below is a list of topics most often discussed by parents in mediation to assist you in considering those topics which might be important to you personally.

In mediation time will be spent discussing future arrangements for the children. Should you wish, these can then be summarised by your mediator to accompany the final documents you submit to your solicitor.

Living Arrangements

- Term time arrangements
- School holidays and half terms
- Holidays away
- Special days:
 - Child's birthday
 - Mother's Day/Father's Day
 - Religious Festivals
- Contact with others,
 - Introduction of new partners
 - Grandparents, extended family

- Consultation vs. informing: about what issues?
- Developing a mutual story to explain the situation to your children and others

Education

- School report availability
- Attending social events
- Parent-teacher meetings
- Change of school
- Problems relating to school

Administrative Arrangements

- Official address of Record
- Permission to travel
- Location of passport storage

Activities

- Sports
- Homework
- TV programmes – rules
- Social Events
- Clubs – Youth Organisation
- Other clubs or lessons

Communication

- Regarding changes to arrangements
- At handovers
- By phone, text, email or meeting?

Care and Discipline

- Pocket money
- Presents for child
- Bedtime, house rules
- Who may discipline and how e.g. parent / new partner
- Contact with others
- Road safety / car seats / kerb drill / cycle helmets
- Meals, table manners, etc.

Health and Medical Needs

- Emergency contact – telephone
- Dietary
- Treatment, medicine
- Hospital visiting
- Details of GPs involved
- Dealing with disability