

FAMILY LAW

Are you thinking of entering into an agreement about the children?

Formalising arrangements for the children of separated parents is generally a good idea, whether that is by way of a Parenting Plan or a Court Order.

If you are considering entering an agreement, below are just some of the issues you may want to think about:

- How much time will each child spend with you and the other parent? For example, it could be a week-about arrangement, some time on weekends and time during the week, or some other arrangement.
- If any changes need to be made to arrangements, how much notice should each parent give the other? Should a review period be included in the agreement?
- How will any holidays (overseas and local) be arranged and agreed?
- What about special occasions such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, the children's birthdays, both parents' birthdays, Christmas Day and New Years Eve? Are all, or only some, of these days important? Are there any other special days during the year that should be addressed in the agreement?
- How often will the children contact the other parent and by what method of communication eg regular telephone contact, email and webcam?
- Will the children participate in any extra-curricular activities and, if so:
 - which activities
 - who will take them to the activities
 - can the other parent attend as well
 - who will pay for the activities
- How, when and where will handover of the children to the other parent occur?

Formalising Arrangements for the Children handout

- Education - consider:
 - the children's education needs
 - which schools they want to attend and the proximity of same to each parent's residence
 - how homework will be managed
 - how will each parent receive information, newsletters and reports from the school(s)
- What should happen if the children require medical attention?

Before entering into any agreement, you should obtain independent legal advice.

This information constitutes general information only. If you require detailed advice on children's issues, or any other family law issue, please contact Natalie Dimmock at Murfett Legal Pty Ltd on (08) 9388 3100 or natalie@murfett.com.au.