



## The most wonderful time of the year?

Spending Christmas Day without your kids is tough but a reality for separated couples. Remember it's not easy for the kids either.

Your kids will be anxious that Santa might not come to their new home, they'll be sad to leave new presents behind when it's time to go to their other parent, they might be mourning the end of traditions enjoyed during your intact relationship, which are no longer.

Here are some tips for making Christmas easier on all of you after you separate.

- If you haven't discussed the arrangements, put a proposal to your ex which ensures each of you gets a celebratory event with the children which will be switched over next year.
- As much as possible, be generous in making arrangements which

continue family traditions which are important to your children.

- Talk to your family about reorganising your family celebration to fit in with the arrangements you and your ex have in place for the children.
- Reassure your young children that Santa is making special stops at both homes.
- Let the kids take their favourite Christmas present with them when they leave to spend time with the other half of their family.
- Be flexible if your ex is running late for drop off. We all know the Christmas lunch doesn't hit the table until well into the afternoon.
- Buy a gift for your ex and his/her family, or help your child make a gift or card. Kids don't like turning up empty handed and often don't have the resources to do something themselves.



### FREE 10 MINUTE CONSULTATION

For a **FREE** confidential 10 minute phone consultation, call Managing Director, Fiona Reid.

*Fiona Reid is the Managing Director of Reid Family Lawyers, a boutique specialist family law firm with offices in Brookvale and Surry Hills. She is supported by a team of expert family lawyers. The firm has a wealth of experience in all facets of family law including complex property matters, parenting matters, child support and spousal maintenance issues, relocation, de facto and same sex issues, surrogacy and adoption.*



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