



Do you have a case for no time?

Many people are under the misapprehension that children must be made available to spend time with the parent who is not their primary carer following a separation.

But, if that person poses a risk to your children, this may not be the case.

Although Orders from a family court for “no time” are rare, they’re not unheard of.

If a parent poses a risk to a child because of family violence, uncontrolled mental health issues, substance abuse issues or lack of capacity to meet a child’s physical, intellectual and psychological needs, the Court must assess whether the child spending time with that person would be in the child’s best interests. In cases of severe family violence, the Court must also consider the impact on the primary carer’s capacity if they are forced to come into contact with or make their child available

to spend time with the parent who poses the risk.

And what if you’re the parent who poses the risk? How can you ameliorate the issues so you can enjoy a relationship with your child?

- Own your issues and do something about it;
- If your mental health is a problem, seek help;
- If you have substance abuse issues, think about rehab and/or counselling;
- If you are violent, attend a suitable anger management course and ongoing counselling to address the reasons for your behaviour and how to control it;
- Think about taking part in some parenting courses;
- Consider supervised time with your child while you address your issues;
- Ensure you have detailed reports from your treaters to show the progress you’ve made to both your ex and the Court, and consistently seek ongoing support.



FREE 10 MINUTE CONSULTATION

**For a FREE confidential
10 minute phone
consultation, call Director,
Ruth Hennigan.**

Ruth Hennigan is a 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. Ruth has a particular interest and vast experience in complex parenting matters and a commitment to getting best results for families and children.



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