



What is parental responsibility?

There are two kinds of parental responsibility when making decisions about your children. The first is responsibility for major long-term decisions such as education, medical treatment and religious upbringing.

The second is responsibility for day-to-day decisions such as what a child wears or eats, whether a child is too unwell to attend school or who should mind a child if their parent is unavailable. As a matter of common sense, day-to-day decisions about children are made by the parent with whom a child is living at a particular time. There is no need to consult the other parent in these instances.

Ideally, major long-term decisions about children should be made jointly by parents – especially when both parents continue to have a significant

involvement in the lives of their child. However, until Orders by a Court are made for joint parental responsibility, parents are not required to consult one another before making a major long term decision for their child.

When an order for joint parental responsibility is in place, there is a legal obligation upon the parents to consult with one another and make a genuine attempt to reach agreement about major long-term decisions for their children.

Sometimes joint parental responsibility is not possible due to a history of family violence or high-level parental conflict, or because of parental incapacity or absence. In those cases, an order that one parent has sole parental responsibility for some or all major long term decisions may be appropriate.



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.



Reid Family Lawyers

A SPECIALIST FAMILY
LAW FIRM, COMMITTED
TO HELPING YOU.

Ph: 9091 0220 | reidfamilylawyers.com.au