



Changes are afoot

Major changes to how a Court deals with parenting matters are coming into effect on 6 May 2024.

Currently, if your matter is in Court, there's a presumption of equal shared parental responsibility, meaning parents must agree about things like where their kids live, where they go to school, cultural and religious decisions. Unless this presumption is rebutted, then the Court must also consider whether the children spending equal time with each parent is in their best interests.

From 6 May 2024, the presumption of equal shared parental responsibility will no longer apply and the Court will no longer have to consider, as a starting point, equal time.

From 6 May 2024, the factors to be considered by a Court when determining how much time children spend with each of their parents will be simplified, with a focus on safety.

These new factors are:

- The safety of the child and people who care for the child (including any history of family violence and family violence orders).
- The child's views.
- The developmental, psychological, emotional and cultural needs of the child.
- The capacity of each person who will be responsible for the child to provide for the child's developmental, psychological, emotional and cultural needs.
- The benefit to the child of having a meaningful relationship with their parents and other people who are significant to them (eg grandparents and siblings).
- For an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child, how parenting arrangements will help that child to experience their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.



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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