



## All I want for Christmas....

Is for mum and dad to be back together! You'd be surprised how common a "wish" this is for kids of separated parents.

The reality is, if you're separated, that Christmas is going to be even more complicated than it was when you were together and for many, those special days can feel lonelier than ever. Not waking up with your kids on Christmas morning or going solo to your extended family lunch can be a joyless time. Family traditions created during your former relationship are no longer and for many, the pain of that loss is palpable.

But spare a thought for your kids who have lost so much too and for whom Christmas now means more car trips, changeovers (sometimes between hostile parents), newly received presents whisked away, not being able to see those cousins with

whom they've played backyard cricket and "Marco Polo" for as long as they can remember.... and the list goes on.

So, while a reconciliation is probably too much to ask, even from Santa, you can make Christmas a special time for your children despite differences you might have with your ex by:

- Trying to maintain the traditions which are important for your kids, even if you're going to miss out;
- Letting them take their new presents with them to their other parent's home;
- Helping them choose and buy a gift for their other parent. Kids are embarrassed if they don't have anything to give when everyone else is exchanging presents;
- Avoid conflict at changeover and be forgiving if plans change at the last minute - we all know the Christmas lunch never hits the table until at least 3pm.



### 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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