

# My partner and I agreed to a parenting arrangement – and now they won't follow it!

Imagine the frustration. You've gone to all the hard work to negotiate, compromise, and mediate to finally get some enforceable Court Orders which define your parenting arrangements. Then suddenly, your partner starts breaking the agreement. Sadly, this is more common than you might think. From changing the handover time to turning up at Sunday sport on your week – it can be frustrating that after all your hard work, your ex-partner doesn't have the same respect for your agreement as you do.

The most important thing you can do is be flexible where possible. Ask yourself – are these reasonable breaches? Start a dialogue with your ex in a non-confrontational way. For example:

- *"Thanks for your message about changing the handover time. Unfortunately, I made plans presuming they were coming back at the pre-agreed time, so I can't be too flexible today".*

- *"Johnny loved seeing you at cricket today. But next time, I'd be grateful if, as a heads up, you could let me know you'll be there on my weekend".*
- *"I know it's difficult now that we each have less time with the kids, but I would really appreciate it if we could stick to the Orders. It makes things less stressful for us and more consistent for the kids."*

If possible, it is always best to keep it child-focussed, have a discussion or even attend mediation before escalating the matter to Court. If your partner wants to change a handover time because your child is enjoying themselves at a birthday party, try and be flexible! But remember, the fallback position is always the Orders. You're entitled to have your partner comply with them.

If the breaches are more serious, it's important to get some legal advice. You might need the Court. A good family lawyer will be happy to advise you on the next steps.



## 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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