



Do the kids get a say?

Parenting Orders, whether agreed between you or determined by a Court must reflect what is in your child's best interests. There are a number of factors which are taken into account to determine best interests, and one of those is the views of your children.

Every child's view is taken into consideration, but so is their age and level of maturity. So, the older your children are, the more weight their personal views will have.

Realistically, once children reach their mid-teens, they mostly get to "vote with their feet". They're not going to be particularly interested in any arrangements a Court tries to impose on them.

But having said all this, it is still important to shield your child as much as possible from your dispute and essential not to make your kids think they have to choose between their parents. So, if you have a teenager who is expressing strong views about their parenting arrangements:

- Listen to what they have to say.
- Reality test their reasoning.
- Try to agree on a proposal with your ex which is respectful of your child's views but takes into account each of your own needs, commitments and desires.
- Present a consensus position to your child and be sure to remind them that this is what you two have decided will be best for them.

Children are far more compliant if they know you're on the same page.



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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