



Complete Guide To Child Arrangement Agreements Orders

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Introduction

As a parent, one of your key worries in life is your children and their wellbeing. Whether you worry about them going out by themselves, or about how they're being treated at school, you always want the best for them. In today's world, there are plenty of things that may be concerning as a parent and that you can prepare for, but having to navigate their care and welfare in the event of a divorce may not have been something you planned for. Couples get divorced for many different reasons, but whatever the root, parental breakups can cause a huge amount of upheaval in a child's life, so ensuring that the process is smooth for them – and for you – should be one of the most pressing considerations.

One part of divorce proceedings that no parent ever looks forward to is deciding whom the child will live with and the amount of contact each parent will have. In some situations, a simple 50/50 split may work well, but there are of course circumstances where this is not possible, or where one party makes this decision difficult.

If you are not able to decide whom your child should live with and how often your former partner will be able to see them, to the Court will need to decide the outcome in the best interests of the child and make a child arrangements order accordingly.

In this guide, we will be taking you through everything you need to know about child arrangement agreements and orders. This includes what these orders are, who can apply for one, as well as the process of filing the order and dealing with disputes which may arise.



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What Is A Child Arrangement Order?

A child arrangements order, which was formerly known as a Residence and Contact Order, is an order put in place during children's proceedings. This order will outline where a child will live and how often they will see each parent. This could be issued alongside divorce proceedings if the parties cannot agree on the arrangements for the child.

It's normally best for all parties to agree on matters concerning any children between themselves, amicably.



How To Apply For A Child Arrangement Order

There are a few specific groups of people that have implicit permission to apply for a child arrangement order through the courts. These groups include:

- Parents or guardians of a child.
- An adult with a CAO live with order for the child.
- A responsible adult who holds parental responsibility for the child.
- An adult the child has lived with for three years or more.
- A non-biological parent who is a parent through marriage/civil partnership.

Before you apply for an order, you will usually be required to attend a meeting about mediation, called a mediation information and assessment meeting (MIAM).

How Much Does A Child Arrangement Order Cost?

To apply for a court order, you will be expected to pay £232. However, you may be able to get some help paying these fees if you're on benefits or have a low income.

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When Should Cases Go To Court?

In most cases where two parties are going through a divorce, they are able to decide amongst themselves what will happen to their children or go through a mediation process and achieve an agreed outcome. However, if the two parties are still not in agreement, they can request the help of the family court.



How To Deal With Disputed Over A Child Arrangement Order

Deciding what will happen to your children during a divorce can be a stressful situation involving a lot of emotions. No one wants to have to give up precious time with their child but, unfortunately, this is the reality of many divorce proceedings.

It's common for ex-partners to disagree over what happens to children. Some of the most common disputes that occur include:

- Disputes over where a child should live.
- Disputes over what time a child should have with each parent.
- Disputes over decisions around education, travel and holidays.
- Disputes over child maintenance or child support payments.

Other common issues that can make deciding on what happens to children during a divorce can include the dissolution of international or Islamic marriages or child custody arrangements in cases of allegations of domestic violence.

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We Help You Get The Best For Your Child

We know that divorce proceedings can be extremely stressful. Not only are you closing a chapter of your life, but there are also a lot of practical considerations that must be taken into account – especially when it comes to your children.

At National Legal Service, we have a team of experienced family lawyers who can provide support and information for any parent going through a divorce and trying to retain normality in their child's life.

With our help, you'll be able to ensure that the divorce process is as smooth as possible, with minimal disruption to your children. Having a professional family solicitor on your side gives you the best chance of a positive outcome for your whole family.

To find out more about child arrangement orders, get in touch with us today on 0203 601 505, or email us at info@nationallegalservice.co.uk