



hethertons
SOLICITORS



Planning for Christmas

Hayley Crossman-Shaw, Family Solicitor.

Christmas is not always an easy time to navigate, especially for separated parents.

One of the main issues for separated parents is that of where the children will wake up on Christmas morning and how time will be spent with both families. It is not an easy discussion to have but it is a necessary one.

In most cases, parents are able to come to an agreement amongst themselves about the children sharing time with both sides of the family, but there are occasions when parents may need the help of a mediator or an independent third party to facilitate these discussions.

Christmas is a time for families and if an agreement about where the children will spend time can be reached early on, it does take the pressure out of an already very hectic time of year.

What if we can't reach a decision

It is important to remember that the children are at the heart of any issue which cannot be resolved. One way to resolve matters is to have an alternating rota which sees the children spending time with one side of the family on Christmas Day one year but with the other side of the family the next year. There is Boxing Day and New Year's Eve which are also times for celebration and can be used to prolong Christmas for the children whilst ensuring that both sides of the family get to share quality time with them.

If proposals have been put forward but cannot be agreed, then speak to an independent third party, such as a mediator or a solicitor. This is, of course, the last resort but sometimes is the necessary step to take to put in place an arrangement which allows the children to spend time with both sides of the family.

If you are finding it difficult to reach an agreement with your ex-partner in relation to the time that the children shall spend with you, then call us and make an appointment to speak with a member of our Family Team. We can talk you through the options which are available to you and work towards reaching an agreement.

You can contact one of the Hethertons Family Team on **01904 528200**.

