

## Preparing for summer when co-parenting.

*Hayley Crossman-Shaw*

As the schools break up for summer, focus turns to holidays, whether at home or abroad and the issue of childcare. These issues can be a real concern for families where there is a co-parenting or shared care arrangement in place for the children. Issues such as 'can I take the children abroad if we do not have the same surname?' or 'can I alter a parenting plan to accommodate some time away with my children?' to 'should my ex pay towards additional childcare during the school holidays?' always come to the forefront when the schools break up and the sooner these issues are addressed, the better.

We would always suggest that parents keep communicating as best they can. There are a number of parent communication apps which help to regulate contact between parents when communication is difficult. We understand that this can be difficult.

If parents cannot reach an agreement about how the children will be cared for or how their time will be shared with each parent without some support, the next step should be mediation. This is not with a view to reconciling the relationship, it is focussed on facilitating discussions and helping parents to resolve issues without the intervention of the courts.

If mediation too breaks down, then parents may wish to consider appointing solicitors to progress discussions and to steer the parties towards a resolution. We always hope to do this without the intervention of the court, but sometimes that is the only option.

So, if you are facing issues such as coparenting children and wish to discuss what steps you can take to come to an agreement which best meets the needs of your children, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our expert team of lawyers are on hand to help if you need further advice or guidance.

Contact Hayley Crossman-shaw on  
**01904 528391**

The above is not intended to provide advice.

