



## BRIESE LAWYERS FACTSHEET

# Parenting Plans



*Parenting Plans are an alternative means of seeking agreement and resolving child-related disputes between separated parents.*

A Parenting Plan is a voluntary written agreement made between parents that set out the parenting arrangements for their child/children.

Parents do not need to go to Court to have one made. However to be recognised by a Court the Plan must be a signed and dated written agreement that was agreed to without threat, duress or coercion. Once these agreements are formalised in writing, filed and accepted by the Court, they become Orders of the Court, and are binding on the parties.

Parenting Plans may address any aspects of the care, welfare, development or parental responsibilities for a child such as:

- Where and with whom the child/children will live and spend time;
- Arrangements for birthdays, holidays, or any other special occasions and events;
- Where the child is to attend school;
- The nature of any religious education; and
- How the parties will go about resolving a dispute or altering the Parenting Plan.

The advantages of reaching an agreement are:

- You make your own decisions;
- You greatly reduce the financial and emotional costs of legal proceedings;
- You are able to move forward and make a new life for yourself;
- Your continuing relationship as parents is likely to work better; and
- You may improve communication with your former partner and be better able to resolve disputes in the future.

It is important to receive advice about the consequences of a Parenting Plan before any agreement is signed. You also need to ensure that the best interests of your child/ren are first and foremost. Parenting Plans should not replace the need to seek legal advice or perhaps obtain Court Orders.

Further details with respect to Parenting matters may be obtained by contacting one of our Solicitors, who can offer practical legal advice and guidance, ensuring that your children are well looked after.



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