

What to Include in Your Parenting Consent Order

There are various things you should consider thinking about and including in your parenting Consent Order. Some examples are:

Parental Responsibility

- Whether you and your ex will have equal shared parental responsibility (“ESPR”) for the children.
- If you have ESPR you both will make decisions about major long-term issues (health, education, religion, etc) together for the children. You do not have to jointly make day-to-day decisions.

Education (short term / long term)

- Any specific day cares and / or schools you want the children to attend now or in the future?

Living & Time Arrangements (short term / long term)

- Time arrangements during the school term and holidays
- Where and when changeover will be and who will be responsible for drop offs and pick ups

Special Days

- Time arrangements for:
- Christmas and Easter
 - Mother’s Day and Father’s Day
 - The children’s, parents’ and other people’s birthdays

Health

- Should the parents ensure the children be immunised?
- The Order be given to health professionals as authority to contact both parents about the children’s health
- What is to happen in an emergency? i.e. one parent to contact the other as soon as possible or within 24 hours?



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Communication

- Times and days that parents can speak with the children
- How will parents communicate? i.e. by email or text?

Relocation

- That a parent cannot move a particular distance from the children's school/s or a suburb

Travel

- Parents will authorise the children to have a passport?
- Who retains the passports?
- Will you agree that
- the children can travel internationally with you and/or your ex?
- Do you want to place restrictions on countries that can be travelled to?

Other Family Members

- How the children will maintain their relationship with other family members

Activities

- Do you want an Order providing the parents are to facilitate the children attending extra-curricular activities and sports?
- This includes taking the children to their activities if the children are in your care.

Other Issues

- Do you want an Order providing the parents won't denigrate the other in front of the children?
- Should the Orders be reviewed in the future? This can be relevant if the children are currently young and you want time arrangements to change as the children get older.