

Family Law and COVID-19

Are you worried about Parenting Orders in the wake of COVID-19?

RMB Lawyers are aware that many separated parents are worried about the process of Parenting Orders over the COVID-19 period. The Family Court and Federal Circuit Court have provided a statement to parents regarding their obligations in relation to arrangements of their children.

The RMB Lawyers' Family Law Team has summarised the key points for you below:

- It is imperative that parents and carers act in the best interests of their children's safety and wellbeing
- If the arrangements are in the children's best interest, parents and carers are expected to comply with Court orders
- If the arrangements aren't possible due to government restrictions e.g. closed borders, schools, centres etc, then the parents should attempt to find a practical, sensible and reasonable solution
- All amendments to arrangements should ideally be in writing, even if by way of email, text message or WhatsApp between each other
- If you can't come to an agreement, parents should keep the children safe until the dispute can be resolved. Primary carers should ensure that each parent or carer continues to have some contact with the children via videoconferencing, social media, or by telephone
- If there is a concern of safety with a fear of immediate danger, contact local police and seek intervention
- In the meantime, the community should be assured that the Courts will continue to perform their duties during this time of crisis. The Courts remain open to assist Australian families in these challenging times.

If you feel that you need further guidance, parents and carers can also mediate their differences through the RMB Lawyers' Family Law Team virtually. Once an agreement has been reached, we can draft a consent order application that outlines the new Parenting Orders and file these electronically with the Court. It is a quick process, usually without a hearing.

The RMB Lawyers' Family Law Team is here to assist you in navigating your parenting matters during this time. Contact the team with your COVID-19 related questions today at rmb@rmblawyers.com.au or 1800 681 211.