

## **CO-PARENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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When parents decide to divorce, the law ensures that neither parent is at fault...the relationship could not be saved. After separation parents have certain rights that will permit them to work toward meeting the best interest of their children. Those rights are:

1. **TO KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE.**
2. **TO KNOW WHO YOUR CHILDREN ARE WITH.**
3. **TO KNOW WHEN YOUR CHILDREN WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU.**
4. **TO KNOW THAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE SAFE.**
5. **TO KNOW THAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING STRUCTURE AND DISCIPLINE IN A POSITIVE AND LOVING WAY.**
6. **TO KNOW YOU WILL BE CALLED IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR CHILD IS SERIOUSLY INJURED OR BECOMES SERIOUSLY ILL.**
7. **TO HAVE APPROPRIATE TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH YOUR CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE WITH THE OTHER PARENT.**
8. **TO HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES WHEN THEY ARE WITH THE OTHER PARENT.**
9. **TO HAVE CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND A SCHEDULE OF ALL MEETINGS IN WHICH YOUR CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE AWARDS AND HONORS.**
10. **TO RECEIVE REALISTIC AND USEFUL INFORMATION IF YOUR CHILD IS HAVING A PROBLEM, AND BE INCLUDED IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGE AND IMPROVEMENT.**
11. **TO ALWAYS KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS BEING SEEN BY A THERAPIST OR COUNSELOR AND HAVING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SHARE IN THE COST, TRANSPORTATION AND THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES.**
12. **IF YOUR CHILD IS IN THERAPY, TO HAVE A THERAPIST WHO FOLLOWS THE BASIC ETHICAL RULES OF TREATMENT, DOES NOT HAVE A PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN'S CARETAKERS, AND WHO INCLUDES YOU IN THE TREATMENT PROCESS AS NEEDED.**
13. **TO BE APPROPRIATELY INVOLVED IN CURRENT AND LONG TERM PLANNING OF SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, FRIENDSHIPS, RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.**
14. **FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN TO NOT BE SUBJECTED TO VERBAL, EMOTIONAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE. TO KNOW YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE SPANKED OR PHYSICALLY PUNISHED BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THE TWO PRIMARY PARENTS AND IF ONE PARENT IS AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, NEITHER PARENT WILL USE SUCH PUNISHMENT.**
15. **TO HAVE YOUR PARENTING PLAN HONORED BY PROMPT EXCHANGES WITH EVERYONE ON TIME.**
16. **TO PRESERVE THE COPY RIGHT TO THE TITLES "MOM" AND "DAD".**

**A CHILD'S BILL OF RIGHTS  
WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT**

**THE RIGHT TO:**

- 1. A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH PARENTS.**
- 2. TO BE TREATED NOT AS A PIECE OF PROPERTY, BUT AS A HUMAN BEING RECOGNIZED TO HAVE UNIQUE FEELINGS, IDEAS, AND DESIRES CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF AN INDIVIDUAL.**
- 3. CONTINUING CARE AND PROPER GUIDANCE FROM EACH PARENT.**
- 4. NOT TO BE UNDULY INFLUENCED BY EITHER PARENT TO VIEW THE OTHER PARENT DIFFERENTLY.**
- 5. EXPRESS LOVE, FRIENDSHIP, AND RESPECT FOR BOTH PARENTS: FREEDOM FROM HAVING TO HIDE THOSE STATED EMOTIONS OR MADE TO BE ASHAMED OF SUCH.**
- 6. AN EXPLANATION THAT THE IMPENDING ACTION OF DIVORCE WAS IN NO WAY CAUSED BY THE CHILD'S ACTIONS.**
- 7. NOT TO BE THE SUBJECT AND/OR SOURCE OF ANY AND ALL ARGUMENTS.**
- 8. CONTINUING, HONEST FEEDBACK WITH RESPECT TO THE DIVORCE PROCESS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP OF THE FAMILY.**
- 9. MAINTAIN REGULAR CONTACT WITH BOTH PARENTS AND A CLEAR EXPLANATION FOR ANY CHANGE IN PLANS AND/OR CANCELLATIONS.**
- 10. ENJOY A PLEASURABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH PARENTS, NEVER TO BE EMPLOYED AS A MANIPULATIVE BARGAINING TOOL.**

## MATURITY

Ann Landers

Maturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence.

Maturity is patience. It is the willingness to pass up immediate pleasure for a long-term gain.

Maturity is perseverance, the ability to sweat out a project or a situation in spite of heavy opposition and discouraging setbacks.

Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort and defeat, without complaint or collapse.

Maturity is being big enough to say, "I was wrong." And, when right, the mature person need not experience the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so."

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. The immature spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and then do nothing.

Maturity means dependability, keeping one's word and coming through in a crisis. The immature are masters of the alibi. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions that somehow never materialize.

Maturity is the art of living in peace with what we cannot change, the courage to change what should be changed and the wisdom to know the difference.