

5 Actions You Can Take Now To Have Happy Holidays with Your Kids During Divorce

For many, the holiday season is the best part of the year. Parents going through a divorce during the holidays may feel added stress and animosity in an already difficult dynamic. ***The way parents interact with one another during the initial separation sets the tone for future interaction.***

While you no longer have an intimate relationship, you both still have to raise the kids. Having a polite conversation with each other will seem fake at first, but **being civil to each other in front of the kids will go a long way to help you settle** into your new life and create new holiday traditions after the divorce. Here are 5 ways to have a happy holiday in the midst of divorce for your kids and for you. Do not leave it up to the kids – they love you both and asking them to choose who they'd rather be with is unfair.

Faulty Memory? - Have everything in writing

Planning a successful holiday vacation is likely going to require a good amount of negotiation. Once you agree to a schedule, make sure to text or email the details to make sure you both are on the same page.

Best Dad/Mom Now - It is not a competition

Often after parents separate someone competes, sometimes unconsciously, with the other parent to be the favorite parent. This leads to animosity, which kids will pick up on. Regardless of how the relationship ended, rivalries between parents are the last thing you want for your kids. It is important to focus on your real goal - the happiness of your kids. Kids sometimes have a hard time enjoying themselves with their father because they miss you and they are taking sides. One way to promote a positive environment for your kids during the holidays is to talk to your kids about whatever activities they will be doing with your ex. You can also help your kids plan gifts for your ex. Don't think this is doing your ex any favors; instead you are giving your permission to your kids to enjoy the time with their father.

Why Can't S/He Be Flexible? - Have a Plan B

In the next few weeks, there will be a lot of plans thrown. It is important to keep an open-mind, remember that the goal is the happiness of all parties involved. Once you have agreed on how to split the holidays with your ex, put it in writing as this will benefit you both by ensuring that you are on the same page.

An unfortunate reality of this new holiday season is that you will not be spending a major holiday with your kids like Thanksgiving, Hanukah, Christmas and New Year. This is why you need a plan B for how to enjoy the holidays even when you are not with your kids. Some good examples could be having a Friendsgiving, where you invite all your friends over to try out each

other's favorite recipes, or for Christmas you could organize a secret Santa among your friends. The goal here is to make the most out of the time you are not with your kids. This can recharge your energy so you will be at your best when they are with you again.

Once A Day Is Enough - Have a communication plan with your kids

A good holiday break for your kids means that you will be spending some time away from them during the holidays. This doesn't mean that you won't get to see them, take advantage of technology! Make sure you speak to your ex about when you will call your kids. Make sure to promote facetime with your ex when your kids are with you too. Ensuring that your kids have both parents included in their holiday experiences is very important for their self-esteem and to develop healthy relationships with you and your ex.

His/Her Way or the Highway – Hire a Compassionate and Experienced Divorce Attorney

You can negotiate every aspect of the holidays with your ex, or you can enjoy the holidays with less stress. An experienced divorce attorney can anticipate the bumps on the road, will negotiate the details for holiday time sharing with your kids and will create a written agreement that is enforceable and durable.

Ana C. Augusto, divorce and family law attorney provides legal advice in Miami Dade County, Broward County and Monroe County for divorce and child custody in Florida.

Don't leave anything to chance. Let us help you give your kids the best holidays this year.

Call our office 305-507-7655 to schedule your confidential 45-minute strategy session.

LAW OFFICE OF ANA C. AUGUSTO
Attorney and Counselor at Law
Ocean Bank Building
7951 S.W. 40th Street
Suite 202
Miami, Florida 33155
Telephone: (305) 507-7655
info@augustolaw.com
www.AugustoLaw.com