

RIGHTS* FOR CHILDREN
WHOSE PARENTS ARE SEPARATED

1. THE RIGHT NOT TO BE ASKED TO “CHOOSE SIDES” BETWEEN THEIR PARENTS.
2. THE RIGHT NOT TO BE TOLD THE DETAILS OF BITTER OR NASTY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS GOING ON BETWEEN PARENTS.
3. THE RIGHT NOT TO BE TOLD “BAD THINGS” ABOUT THE OTHER PARENTS PERSONALITY OR CHARACTER.
4. THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY WHEN TALKING TO EITHER PARENT ON THE TELEPHONE.
5. THE RIGHT NOT TO BE CROSS-EXAMINED BY ONE PARENT AFTER SPENDING TIME WITH THE OTHER PARENT.
6. THE RIGHT NOT TO BE ASKED TO BE A MESSENGER FROM ONE PARENT TO THE OTHER.
7. THE RIGHT NOT TO BE ASKED BY ONE PARENT TO TELL THE OTHER PARENT UNTRUTHS.
8. THE RIGHT NOT TO BE USED AS A SECRET KEEPER BETWEEN PARENTS.
9. THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS FEELINGS, WHATEVER THOSE FEELINGS MAY BE.
10. THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE NOT TO EXPRESS CERTAIN FEELINGS.
11. THE RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM PARENTAL WARFARE.
12. THE RIGHT NOT TO BE MADE TO FEEL GUILTY FOR LOVING BOTH PARENTS.
13. THE RIGHT TO HAVE BOTH PARENTS ATTEND THE SAME EVENTS AND MEETINGS REGARDING THE CHILD, I.E. SCHOOL MEETINGS, SPORTS EVENTS, MUSIC OR OTHER EXTRACIRRICULAR EVENTS.
14. THE RIGHT TO HAVE OWNERSHIP AND/OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN BELONGINGS LIKE CLOTHES AND OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS.
15. THE RIGHT TO BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM A PARENTS NEW RELATIONSHIP FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST 6 MONTHS, PREFERABLY A YEAR FROM THE PARENTS SEPARATION.
16. THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE IN BOTH HOMES.

*While these rights, and others, I believe, should be standard practice in any separation or divorce, there are no laws outlining the rights of a child.