



Atlanta Divorce Law Group

May 2017 Newsletter

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Greetings!

Top Tips for Successful Joint Physical Custody.



Our legal team has handled hundreds of cases with issues surrounding the parent's ability or inability to co-parent. Our attorney, Jeanette Soltys also shares joint physical custody of her son with her ex-husband. Through working directly with parents in family law cases as well as through her own experience, Jeanette has identified factors that help determine the success of a joint physical custody arrangement where the children spend equal amounts of time with both parents. If you have or are considering joint physical custody, the tips below can help your children thrive.

1. **Get past your negative feelings about your ex.**

The relationship is over. There is no need to dwell on . . . [click here](#) to learn more!

Team 100 Feature: Lauren Dack



Lauren Dack is an experienced Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and Professional Counselor (LPC) in the state of Georgia. She brings not only 9 years of counseling experience, but also a genuine passion for helping individuals and couples experience intimacy, healing, and hope. She believes that helping folks understand and heal from their past allows them to find more joy in the present, and ensure a healthier future. Check out her [website](#) to learn more about Lauren and her services.

Lauren lives in Alpharetta with her 2 adorable and wild boys, Caleb (5), and Mason (3), and her wonderful husband Josh. In her free time, she loves camping with her family and friends, reading, exercising, and watching Netflix.



Attorney's Corner: Travel Plans

You know it's Mother's Day and Memorial Day this month; hopefully, all our mother's out there are getting to spend the



Jeanette Soltys, Esq.

day with their kids! What do you suggest to parents if they are taking their kids away for the weekend? Do they have to tell their ex-spouse all the details of their plan?

Unless the custody order or settlement agreement says otherwise, there is no need to provide a detailed itinerary to the other parent of what you do during your own parenting time. However, when going on an out of town trip, you do need to let the other parent know where you are staying, the dates of travel, and how the children can be reached for phone calls.

If the ex-spouse stirs up an issue and tries to keep you from leaving, what's the best way to handle that kind of situation?

Unless there are travel restrictions placed in the custody order, a parent absolutely has the right to go on a vacation with the children. My best advice is to not engage in back and forth argument with your ex regarding the issue. Communicate your travel plans through email in advance, letting him know the dates of travel and location where you are staying. Do listen and talk through any reasonable concerns expressed by the other parent, but if he gets verbally combative with unreasonable demands, simply state that your plans are not up for discussion and walk away or hang up the phone. If he bombards you with unreasonable emails on the issue, send a brief response stating something like, "Your concerns are noted. I will not engage in further discussion on the issue" and then ignore any additional emails.

Be sure to travel with a copy of your custody order in case your ex calls the police and makes false allegations about your ability to travel with the children. Also, if your travel plans require application for a passport for the children, the cooperation of your ex spouse is necessary to obtain a passport. If your ex spouse will not sign the forms consenting to you applying for the child's passport, then you need to consult with an attorney and consider taking legal action. If you have an ex who is difficult about travel, I recommend going ahead and getting a passport well in advance of any potential international travel to give yourself time to resolve the problem in court if necessary.

Often parents try to ensure a call every day, but I'd like to use this trip for some US time without an interruptions. Is it okay to not have the kids call their other parents every day?

I personally do not like parenting plans that require a daily call with the children, as some days it is nearly impossible to comply due to vacation or an extracurricular activity. If your parenting plan states that you are to have the child call the parent on a daily basis and does not make an exception for vacation, then you could be held in contempt of court if you don't ensure the calls are made every day. However, most parenting plans have more flexible language stating that the parent with custody needs to allow reasonable phone contact between the other parent and the child. In this circumstance, even if the children typically have daily communication with the other parent, it's reasonable to deviate from that during vacation. I would suggest letting the other parent know that your vacation schedule may not allow for a daily phone call, but that you will make the child available for calls as your vacation schedule permits.

Do you have any other words of wisdom on how to handle trips with the kids and managing my ex-spouse? Are there any common things you see happen that I should know about?

It's common for a parent to be concerned about who else is going on a trip and the sleeping arrangements for the children. If someone else is going on the trip, such as a new spouse, step-sibling, or even a friend of the children, be sure to keep good boundaries in place regarding the children sleeping in their own bed, everyone wearing appropriate clothing at all times, and the children not being alone in a bedroom or bathroom with an adult or even a child of the opposite sex. Travel with a new partner and also a partner's children requires discussion ahead of time to lay ground rules to ensure privacy and appropriateness while everyone is in close quarters. Even if there is no ill intent behind behavior, it's very easy for innocent behavior such as a female child changing clothes in front of a step-father or step-brother to be misconstrued, especially by a concerned parent who was not present and just hears about it later through the children. Be careful to never put yourself or your children in a situation that could be misinterpreted and later cause conflict with your ex.

Happy Mother's Day!

To Mother's Everywhere:

You are our rock and our defender. You pick us up when we fall and kiss our cheeks to take away the pain. You hurt when we hurt and rejoice when we are happy. You believe in what we can do and push us to achieve all that we can. You fight for our future, and you delight in our successes. You've shown us what it means to be courageous, to be kind, and to do what's right. You are fierce, and you are strong. Your unconditional love is like no other. You don't hear it enough, but yours truly loves you more than can be expressed. Remember that today and always.



ADLG employees with their mothers and children!

Fun Things To Do This Summer:



Summer days are quickly approaching, and this means no school! It's time to find some activities for your kids. If your family has recently gone through a stressful transition, summer brings with it a great opportunity to bring some fun and joy into you and your children's life. You all deserve it!

If you are looking for camps, here are some good options:

1.) Check out your local YMCA: They have camps going on all summer long for kids ages 5-18. They also offer half day programs for kids 3-4 years old. Prices for the whole week fall around \$130 for members and \$150 for non-members. Is your child older and ready for their first job? They can be a camp counselor!

2.) Summer Camps through your City Parks and Recreation Programs: Alpharetta, Milton, Johns Creek, and Roswell all have wonderful summer camps that are also relatively inexpensive with many starting around \$150. Many offer day camps as well as sport camps. Some even offer music or art camps. Check out your local Parks and Recreation website for more info.

3.) Overnight Camps: There are many overnight camp options through all sorts of different organizations - YMCA, Church, Music Stores, Art Stores, Sports Leagues, and so much more. Local colleges often offer camps as well. There are so many choices out there; you are bound to find the perfect fit for your child.

If you just want a fun day activity around town, check these out:

- Places to Go: Six Flags, Georgia Aquarium, The Atlanta Zoo, Stone Mountain, Children's Museum of Atlanta, Centennial Olympic Park, Braves Game
- Have a picnic in the park.
- Have a stay at home day to binge watch your favorite movies OR make your own movie.
- Go to the library and check out some books.
- Slip N' Slide in the backyard.
- Play laser tag.
- Camp out in the backyard.
- Chalk Art all over the driveway.
- Visit the fire station.
- Launch a rocket.
- Visit the nature centers at the local city park.
- Play at the local splash pad or pool.

Make this the best summer for you and your kids!

Calendar of Events

May 2017

- 5/1: Motions Hearing; Dawson County
- 5/3: Temporary Hearing; Cherokee County
- 5/11: Civil Non-Jury Trial; DeKalb County
- 5/13: Happy Mother's Day
- 5/15: Uncontested Hearing; Cobb County
Final Hearing; Gwinnett County
- 5/17: Hearing; Cobb County
Hearing, Dekalb County
- 5/22: Emergency Hearing; Fayette County
- 5/23: Mediation; Dawson County
- 5/29: Memorial Day



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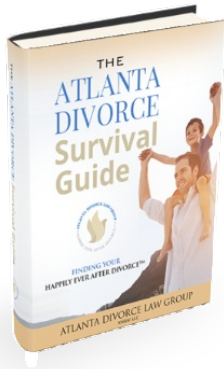


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