

Vacation Planning During Divorce



“Vacation” may not be the first word that comes to mind when you are navigating a divorce. However, former partners with children will at some point have to negotiate how to handle vacation planning within their new family dynamic. Like so many other aspects of a divorce agreement, being proactive and planning ahead can help decrease stress and disagreements that may otherwise arise.

Vacations often occur during extended holidays and breaks from school. This can make the task of fairly sharing free time and planning ahead difficult. It’s important to discuss with each other, and a mediator if necessary, how you can best share the responsibilities associated with everyday life such as school, doctors appointments, etc. and the freedom and time commitment that comes with caring for children during holidays and summer breaks. There is no best practice for every family, as every situation is different, but following these basic tips can help you and your former partner find a comfortable agreement that works for your situation:

- ◆ Always keep your children's best interest at heart.
- ◆ Discuss dates and times for vacations well in advance.
- ◆ If a true emergency arises that would interfere with the other parent's parenting time, amicably communicate this with the other parent in as far advance as possible.
- ◆ Remember that, as your children grow, their needs change. Be open to renegotiating parenting agreements surrounding breaks and vacations.



Vacation Planning During Divorce – continued

Just like many other issues that arise in divorce, open communication is the best approach to vacation planning. By considering everyone's needs, especially those of your children, it is possible to come to a peaceful and mutually beneficial agreement for all parties involved. By involving a collaborative team and/or mediator during the planning stages of divorce, you are taking the first step towards a commitment to keeping the peace within your family.

Just because divorce is a difficult process doesn't mean that you can't keep the health and happiness of your family at the center of all you do.

For more information on vacation planning and the collaborative divorce process, contact the Law Offices of Julia Brungess today.