

A Short Guide to Children Act

The Court is only likely to become involved and make an Order relating to the child/ren if the parents are unable to agree what is best for their child/ren.

The statute which deals with disputes concerning the children is known as the Children Act 1989.

There are a number of Orders that the Court can make and these include the following:-

- a. Parental Responsibility – this encompasses all of the rights and duties which a parent has regarding a child, including the right to decide where the child should go to school, what form of religious upbringing the child should have, what medical treatment the child should receive etc.
- b. Residence – a Residence Order will determine where the child/ren will live.
- c. Contact – this Order sets out the type of contact and the frequency of it. Contact can be physical contact or indirect such as by letter or telephone calls. Contact is for the benefit of the child/ren with the absent parent.
- d. Prohibited Steps – a Prohibited Steps Order limits when certain parental rights and duties can be exercised such as taking the child/ren out of the country without consent.
- e. Specific Issue – a Specific Issue Order contains directions to resolve a particular issue in dispute in connection with the child/ren i.e. such as which school a child should attend.

Please contact Nick Johns if you require any more information or assistance.