

Fathers in Family Court — Practical Pack

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****Purpose:**** Equip fathers to present truth with clarity and integrity. This is not legal advice.

1) Evidence Checklist — “Receipts or it didn’t happen”

- ****Time & Communication:**** dates, times, channels, missed/shortened contact, refusals.
- ****Parenting Involvement:**** homework help, school runs, parent evenings, medical appointments.
- ****Financial Support:**** bank statements, receipts, transfers, reference notes.
- ****Third-Party Notes:**** teacher/coach confirmations, church leaders, childminders.
- ****Interference / Obstruction:**** late cancellations, withheld info, contradictory statements (facts only).
- ****File Hygiene:**** one cloud folder; filenames like `YYYY-MM-DD_topic.ext`.

2) Court-Prep Checklist (48–72 hours before)

- Confirm hearing details: time, court, judge (if known), room, remote link.
- Compile ****bundle**** (or your organised pack): order, paginate, table of contents.
- Print/prepare ****3 copies**** of key exhibits (you, other side, court).
- Draft ****3 headline points**** tied to **best interests of the child**.
- Outfit ready (smart, neutral), travel plan + buffer, childcare cover.
- Tech check for remote hearings (quiet space, headphones, battery).

3) “B.P.F.” Rule for Communications

- ****Brief**** — keep to the point; 4–6 sentences max.
- ****Polite**** — neutral tone; no blame adjectives.
- ****Factual**** — who/what/when/where; a single clear **ask** with deadline.

****Template (after missed contact):****

- > “At 18:40 on 12/10, pick-up at Elm Street did not occur. I waited until 19:05.
- > I propose alternatives this week: Wed 18:00 or Fri 18:00 at the same location.
- > Please confirm by 12:00 tomorrow which you prefer.”

4) Witness & Community Support

- Ask teachers/coaches for ****short factual notes****: attendance, punctuality, engagement.
- Line up a ****character reference**** (work/faith leader) — 1 page, facts + examples.
- Keep supporters off social media commentary; they harm more than help.

5) Online & Messaging Hygiene

- No late-night texts; no rants; no diagnosing the other party.
- Turn off read-receipts if it fuels conflict. Screenshot important threads.
- Never post case details online. Assume all messages will be read in court.

6) Day-of-Court Grounding (5 minutes)

- Box breathing 4x4x4x4 for 1 minute.
- Prayer (choose one):

- “Jesus, carry me — I choose trust.”
- “Set a guard over my mouth; give me mercy and steel.”
- Repeat your ****3 headline points**** out loud.
- Decide your “one ask” today (specific, child-focused).

7) Sample Letter — Factual, Child-First To Whom It May Concern,

I am the father of [Child’s Name, DOB]. I am writing to provide a brief factual summary relevant to contact arrangements.

- I have attended [list key school/medical events] between [dates].
- I provide [weekly/fortnightly] financial support of [amount]; evidence attached.
- Contact has occurred on [X of Y scheduled occasions] over the last [period].
- On [dates], contact did not occur due to [brief factual reason if known].

****Request:**** I propose the following contact pattern in the child’s best interests:

- [e.g., Wednesday 17:00–19:00 handover at X; Saturday 10:00–14:00 at Y]
- I am available to adjust logistics to support schooling, rest, and routine.

Sincerely,
[Name] — [Phone] — [Email]

8) Post-Hearing Debrief (that evening)

- Write 10 lines: outcomes, deadlines, next steps, emotions (for processing only).
- Email yourself the note; add tasks to calendar.
- Do one act of presence for your child: read, call, record a 60-second voice note.

****Remember:**** Court rewards clarity. Children thrive on consistency. Your job is both.