

Proposed child arrangements plan for James, Rachel and Jack

Bob is asking that you work together to come up with a plan for how to look after James, Rachel and Jack. Please read through the suggestions Bob has made. You're then invited to reply with any suggestions of your own.

You do not need to accept what Bob is proposing. Instead you can:

- use this form to suggest changes to what Bob is proposing
- start your own proposed child arrangements plan using the propose a child arrangements plan service on GOV.UK, or by finding a similar service
- use this form to suggest changes to what is proposing

The benefits of getting a written agreement in place

If you and Bob can work together to make written child arrangements, you're more likely to avoid court. You're also more likely to get an arrangement that works for you. That's because people who go to court often find the judge makes decisions that don't suit parents or children.

Top tips

- One of the main reasons people end up in court is that they are not willing to compromise to reach agreement. It may help you avoid court if you can work with Bob to find a compromise that's best for your children.
- Get your children's input into the arrangements you are making so that they feel included and their needs are met.
- Remember to always put your children's needs and feelings first.
- It may not be in the children's best interests to split time exactly between households.

More information about divorce and separation

Check GOV.UK to find what support is available. You can search for topics including:

- separating or divorcing: what you need to do
- making child arrangements if you divorce or separate

Safety check

To make child arrangements you need to be able to state your needs and views without feeling intimidated. The other parent or carer must not be a threat to you or to your children's safety.

Do not continue with this process if there has been:

- any form of domestic abuse or violence, even if the abuse was not directed at the children
- actual or attempted child abduction
- child abuse or neglect
- misuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances
- any other safety or welfare concerns that place anyone at significant risk of harm

If you have any concerns about safety, stop now. Find another way to make arrangements by visiting <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/making-agreements-about-your-children/making-child-arrangements>.

Getting help with abuse and domestic violence

To find out more about what is child abuse and neglect, visit

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse>. If you're unsure whether you're a victim of domestic abuse, visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help#recognise-domestic-abuse>.

As there is a court order in place

Bob has told us there is a court order in place. If you have an order in place that sets out restrictions on contact with your children or ex-partner, you should find a different way to make your child arrangements.

This type of order may include:

- a prohibited steps order
- a specific issue order
- a non-molestation order
- a no contact order

Check any legal documents sent to you by a court to see whether you have any of these types of restrictions.

If you have one of these types of order, stop now and find another way to agree your child arrangements.

If you do not have any restrictions on contact

If you do not have any restrictions on contact with your children or ex-partner, you can use this service.

You can use this service to change child arrangements given to you by a court, so long as the other parent or carer agrees with the changes. You do not need to go back to court to change your arrangements. However, a court can only enforce the child arrangements that are in your court order.

About this child arrangements proposal

Bob said:

- there is a court order in place at this time
- this is a proposed child arrangements plan for 3 children, James, Rachel and Jack
- this agreement is between Bob and Sam, who are the adults who will care for James, Rachel and Jack

Do you and Bob agree about the children's names, your names, and whether there is a court order in place?

Yes ☐ No ☐

We do not store these names or share any of this information with other government departments.

If you answered 'No', it may be helpful to find a mediator who can help you agree your child arrangements. You can get financial help with this. To find out more, go to <https://www.gov.uk/looking-after-children-divorce>.

Living and visiting

Where will the children mostly live?

Bob suggested:

"livingAndVisitingArrangement"

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest where the children will mostly live

End of section

You can use this space to write your agreed compromise for the living and visiting section

Handovers and holidays

How will the children get between households?

Bob suggested that this does not need to be decided.

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest how the children get between households

Where does handover take place?

It may be easier for children if the handover takes place at a neutral location such as a park or railway station.

Bob suggested that this does not need to be decided.

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest where handover takes place

Will these arrangements change during school holidays?

Bob suggested that this does not need to be decided.

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest whether the arrangements should change during the holidays

What items need to go between households?

Bob suggested that this does not need to be decided.

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest which items need to go between households

End of section

You can use this space to write your agreed compromise for the handovers and holidays section

Special days

What will happen on special days?

Keep your children's feelings at the centre of your plans for holidays and meaningful events. For example, New Year celebrations, Mother's Day and Father's Day, and birthdays.

Bob suggested:

"whatWillHappenAnswer"

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest what will happen on special days

End of section

You can use this space to write your agreed compromise for the special days section

Other things

What other things matter to your children?

You may want to agree things such as:

- religious practices, diet, and standard rules across both households
- extra-curricular activities, such as swimming lessons
- access to other friends and family
- other types of contact, such as video calls

Bob suggested:

"whatOtherThingsMatterAnswer"

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest what other things matter to your children

End of section

You can use this space to write your agreed compromise for the other things section

Decision making

How should last-minute changes be communicated?

There will be times when plans will need to change, such as if one parent is suddenly unwell and cannot collect a child from school.

Bob suggested that this does not need to be decided.

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest how last minute changes should be communicated

How much notice should you give to change long-term arrangements?

Sometimes you may need to plan a long way ahead. For example, if you want to plan a holiday during time you do not usually spend with the children.

Bob suggested that this does not need to be decided.

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest how much notice you should give each other

When will the children's needs change?

Children's needs change as they grow. When should you review this agreement to check it is still what's best for the children?

Bob suggested that you should review this arrangement in 1 month's time.

Do you agree?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not agree, suggest when should you review this agreement

End of section

You can use this space to write your agreed compromise for the decision making section

What happens now?

Now send this proposed child arrangements plan back to Bob. You should try to create a written record of what you have both agreed.

If you are unable to reach agreement about your child arrangements, you can try mediation. The next step would be to apply for a court order.

More information and support is available at <https://www.gov.uk/looking-after-children-divorce>