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34140 Mèze  
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26. July 2012

**RE: Journal nr.: 2011-1142/2791**

Herewith, my remarks to Maria Svane's email of the 17th June 2012.

**Christmas**

Christmas is a special time for all our families. So too is Tatjana's birthday on the 30th December, and so is celebrating New Years together. It is for this reason that my suggestion is to divide the holiday into two equal halves:

- In even years, from the start of the holiday until 26th December 12.00
- In uneven years, from 26th December 12.00 until the last day of the holiday

Maria's suggestion means that we will never spend a Christmas Eve with the children. This is a special celebration, not just in Denmark, but in all our traditions. It means that we will also spend Christmas Day travelling and fetching the children, which is disruptive itself. Her suggestion also creates difficulties around the timing of being in Denmark. It must be noted that this is one of the most expensive times of year to travel, and that three of us are travelling from France to Denmark together. It will be very difficult for us economically to travel all the way to Denmark for a three day period. It is also too little time for the girls to travel to France, if we want to take that option instead, as the time period needs to be longer than three days for them to travel outside Denmark.

**Summer holiday**

I am aware that Tatjana has been spending part of her summer vacation at a *koloni* in Bornholm, and that she enjoys it very much. However, she is one of a very few number of children who spend three weeks at the *koloni*. Most of the other children spend one week together, and some of them two weeks. I agree that she should take part in the *koloni* with her friends, but it doesn't necessarily have to be three weeks in length.

Sophia should also be considered. She is not at *koloni* during the same time, and she would benefit from being able to spend more of her summer holiday with me.

Finally, my understanding from the decisions made in the access rulings is that they started with small periods of time, and that I would be able to spend longer periods of time with the girls as they grow older. That is what I am basing my request for more time together with Tatjana and Sophia on, that they should have the opportunity to spend equal amounts of time with each parent during their holidays.

## Travel to South Africa in 2013

1. I have not mentioned Johannesburg specifically in my application to travel to South Africa, as Maria states in her email. It is true that we have family in that city, and we will probably spend a few days there. Our plan, though, is to spend time outside that city as much as possible. We will visit friends and relatives, and other interesting places around the country too.
2. Maria's statement that she stayed outside of Johannesburg when she took the children to South Africa in 2011 is simply not true. I know for a fact that she spent an afternoon with my brother and his family, together with Tatjana and Sophia, in Bassonia, a suburb of the city. They also spent a day at the Johannesburg Zoo, which is in the center of Johannesburg. Tatjana has described visiting Gold Reef City, in the south of Johannesburg, and visiting a friend in the very center of the city itself. So for Maria to say that the city is too dangerous, while herself taking the girls around it, is simply hypocritical. It should also be noted that I grew up and lived in Johannesburg for more than 30 years, and so will be more aware of any supposed dangers than Maria.
3. Regarding the length of time of the trip: it is a long way to travel, and we have many people to see while we are there. Three weeks is a good period of time to spend there. Maria herself took the girls there for three weeks during January and February 2011, taking the girls out of school for a few weeks to do this. As I am not able to make the same arrangement, and take the children out of school to make this trip, I would like to make the trip during their summer holiday, when they have a full six week holiday.
4. It must be noted that in summer 2013, Tatjana will be 10 years old, and Sophia will be almost 7 years old. I don't think that this trip is too far for them, especially as they made the same trip, for the same length of time, in 2011, when Tatjana was 8 and Sophia was 4.
5. Maria's continuing statements that I am a stranger to Sophia are also untrue. Over the last year, I have been trying to spend longer periods of time with the girls, instead of only visiting Denmark for short weekend visits. We have spent a week in the Autumn holiday (October 2011), a week over New Year (2011/2012), a week in the Winter holiday (February 2012) and a week over the Easter Holiday (April 2012) together. Two of these weeks were at our home in France, and two were in Denmark. I have found that these longer periods are much better for everyone, the girls are more relaxed and we get to spend quality time. The longer trips are also more financially viable, as it has proven very costly to spend short weekends in Copenhagen.
6. Both girls have a connection to South Africa. Sophia was born there, and Tatjana lived there for four years of her life, and talks a lot about the country. They have a large, extended family there who have very little contact with them in Denmark, and who are looking forward to spending time with them and getting to know them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JA', with a stylized, wavy line extending from the bottom.

Jason Armstrong