

Back to School! Now What?

August 15, 2024

By Summer Abel



As summer comes to a close and children prepare to return to school, many divorced or separated parents find themselves facing the need to adjust their custody schedules. The shift from the more relaxed, flexible summer arrangements to the structured routine of the school year can be challenging. Understanding how custody schedules can change during this transition and planning accordingly can help ensure a smooth adjustment for parents and children.

What is the best way to address these changes? Below are a few tips to facilitate a smooth transition back into the school year.

Communicate Early and Often: Open communication between parents is not just important; it's essential. Discuss potential custody changes well before the school year begins. Regular check-ins can help address any concerns and ensure both parents are on the same page, providing a sense of reassurance and keeping everyone well-informed.

Create a Detailed Plan: A detailed custody plan can prevent misunderstandings and conflicts. The plan should outline the daily schedule, transportation arrangements, responsibilities for extracurricular activities, and any other relevant details.

Be Flexible and Cooperative: Flexibility and cooperation are not just helpful but key to successful co-parenting. Be willing to adjust as needed and consider each other's work schedules, commitments, and the child's needs. This approach empowers you to control the situation and work together for the best outcome for your child.

Prioritize the Child's Best Interests: Always keep the child's best interests at the forefront of any decisions. Stability, consistency, and a supportive environment are crucial for the child's well-being and academic success. This responsibility and care for your child's needs should guide all your decisions.

Seek Mediation or Legal Assistance if Necessary: If parents cannot agree on custody schedule changes, seeking mediation or legal assistance may be necessary. A mediator or family law attorney can help facilitate discussions and find a resolution for everyone involved.

Adjusting custody schedules when children return to school can be a complex process. Still, parents can navigate this transition smoothly with careful planning, open communication, and a focus on the child's best interests. By working together and being flexible, parents can ensure their children have the stability and support they need to thrive academically and emotionally. If you need assistance modifying a custody schedule, consulting with an experienced family law attorney can provide valuable guidance and help protect your rights as a parent.