

# Information on Children's Cases

On separation, the impact on your children may be your biggest worry and the Court agrees; children and their welfare are the Court's **paramount consideration**.

If you are unable to reach an agreement between yourselves then you have the following options to consider:

- Mediation
- Arbitration
- Collaborative Law
- Court Proceedings

You can find more information about these in our '*Keeping you out of Court*' information sheet.

## The Welfare Checklist?

The Court will consider a number of factors when deciding whether to make an order including:-

- Wishes and feelings
- Physical, emotional and educational needs
- Likely effect
- Age, sex, background and any relevant characteristics
- Harm suffered or at risk of suffering
- Capability of each parent
- The Range of powers available to the Court

The Court will not grant an order unless there is a positive need and benefit to the child in doing so.

To discuss your matter further please contact: -

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## The Most Common Issues Include:

### Child Arrangements Orders

Where the child should live, how often and how much time the child spends with someone

### Specific Issue Orders

Where a decision about a specific issue cannot be agreed between the parties

### Prohibited Steps Orders

Where a person wants to prevent someone from using their Parental Responsibility

### Parental Responsibility Orders

Where a person is asking the Court to grant them Parental Responsibility for a child