

PRACTICAL TIPS TO AVOID HOLIDAY CONFLICT



The holidays should be about family and rest, not conflict.

Use this checklist to plan ahead, reduce stress, and keep your parenting arrangements on track.

1. Plan Ahead

- ☐ Check that your current parenting plan or court orders cover holidays.
- ☐ Discuss Christmas, Easter and school holiday arrangements early.
- ☐ Confirm dates and times in writing.
- ☐ Keep conversations respectful and focused on the children.
- ☐ Allow time for legal advice or mediation if disagreements arise.

2. Key Details to Cover

- ☐ Exact handover dates and times.
- ☐ Who has the children on key days (Christmas Eve/Day, New Year's, Easter).
- ☐ Travel consent and notice for interstate or overseas trips.
- ☐ Handover locations (home, halfway point, neutral venue).
- ☐ How children will stay in touch with the other parent.
- ☐ What happens if illness or changes occur.

3. Avoid These Common Mistakes

- ☐ Leaving plans until December — the Court's deadline to apply for holiday parenting orders is 14 Nov 2025 (for families needing new or updated orders).
- ☐ Assuming last year's arrangements automatically apply without checking your current order or parenting plan.
- ☐ Relying only on verbal agreements.
- ☐ Booking travel before confirming consent or orders.
- ☐ Arguing in front of children.

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4. If You Can't Agree

- ☐ Try mediation or Family Dispute Resolution.
- ☐ Keep discussions child-focused.
- ☐ If mediation fails, obtain a Section 60I certificate to apply to Court.
- ☐ Seek early legal advice — Lamrocks can help with mediation or applications.

5. Key Dates & Contacts

- ☐ 14 November 2025: final date to file for Christmas parenting ord
- ☐ Allow several weeks for negotiation or mediation before filing.
- ☐ Keep copies of all written agreements or consent orders.

Note: This checklist provides general information only and applies to NSW. It does not replace tailored legal advice.

About Lamrocks Solicitors Penrith

For over 140 years, Lamrocks has helped Western Sydney families with various Family Law matters, approaching cases with compassion, kindness and empathy.

Need help with your Family Law matter?

Contact our Family Law team in Penrith: