

FACTSHEET No 10:



a better way to settle

Is shared care right for you?

'Shared care' means children live with each parent for part of the time. This could be an equal division of time but is often more widely defined as children spending between 35 and 65% of their time with each parent. These days nearly all parents share 'parental responsibility' and need to consider the other parent when making major decisions about the child. The proportion of separated parents who opt for 50:50 shared care is still very small (just over 3%). It is generally accepted that shared care is very much more likely to be beneficial to children when negotiated in mediation, rather than when imposed by a court.

These are the key questions you need to consider when deciding whether a shared care arrangement is the right approach for you and your ex-partner:

- Are you able to communicate and negotiate fairly well about the children?
- Do you respect your ex as a parent despite your personal differences and disappointments about your relationship?
- Do you feel you would be able to put aside your personal disagreements and conflicts and focus on what the children need in a given situation?
- Are you able to compromise and give-and-take when there are disagreements?
- Can you share control and respect the autonomy of the other parents household?
- Are your fundamental values and your practical approach to the care of your children similar?
- Can you tolerate your differences without viewing them as detrimental to the children? Are you able to distinguish between the important and unimportant differences you have?
- Do you value what the other parent has to offer your child?
- Are you willing to accept the personal inconvenience and extra work in coordinating schedules with your ex-partner?
- Is your child able to handle transitions and living part of the time with each parent?
- Whilst you were together were the child-rearing tasks shared (not necessarily equally), if not is there a commitment to increase sharing now?

Further Information & Help:

Call 0788 903 9393 or email:

frances@progressive-mediation.co.uk

charles@progressive-mediation.co.uk

www.progressive-mediation.co.uk