

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

Unmarried Parents and the Children's Act.

WHAT ARE THE RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS?

- To care for a child.
- To keep in contact with a child.
- To act as guardian of a child.
- To contribute to the maintenance of a child.

CARE AND CONTACT

HOW TO OBTAIN PRIMARY RESIDENCE?

PRIMARY RESIDENCE

Should the parties not agree on primary residence of the child/children then the parties must approach the Children's Court situated in all Magistrates Court or the High Court to make an application for primary residence. The best interests of the child/children & the Family Advocate's recommendations will be considered.

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF A NON-CUSTODIAN PARENT

The non-custodian parent will retain their rights and responsibilities towards the child, as a co-parent. Insofar as contact is concerned the non-custodian parent has the right to spend time with the child and enjoy the child's company.

NON-CUSTODIAN PARENT

CONFLICT BETWEEN PARENTS

PARENTING PLAN

Co-holders of parental rights and responsibilities may enter into a parenting plan to control the exercise of their respective rights and responsibilities over the minor child. Where the parties are experiencing difficulties in exercising these rights and responsibilities, the Children's Act requires that the services of a Family Advocate, social worker, psychologist or suitable qualified mediator to help reach an agreement on the parenting plan.