WINTER 2016

om&m osborne morris & morgan solicitors

LegalMatters

THE NEWS FROM OSBORNE MORRIS & MORGAN WWW.OMMLAW.CO.UK

25% of separated families find arranging contact over Christmas difficult

What the children *really* want this Christmas

Many separated families fall into a pattern of taking turns in having the children over Christmas. However, for those still in the early days of separation, making these arrangements can be fraught with emotion. Here are some Ideas on how to arrange contact over Christmas.

Plan Ahead

A good idea would be to discuss both the Christmas and New Year periods well in advance to keep the festivities as stress-free as possible.

Children First

Always put the children's feelings first in all discussions. While you may want to split Christmas day think about whether this is fair on them, especially if long distances are involved. Children would rather be with family on Christmas day than being driven from house to house.

A popular choice for separated families is to celebrate Christmas twice; this often means Christmas Day with one parent and Boxing Day with the other, alternating each year.

Inform your children so they feel reassured knowing they'll be able to spend time with both parents. Be positive about the other parent as it is very difficult for a child to hear negative comments about their parents.

Contact When It Is Not Your Turn

If it is your turn to have the children a quick call, Skype or Facetime can be reassuring for both the children and the absent parent.

When You Cannot Agree

The greatest gift you can give your child is to love them more than you hate your ex-spouse; this allows you to make decisions in the best interests of your child.

Family Mediation

Trained mediators can help with discussing the situation, giving you both the opportunity to have your opinion heard and providing you with the tools to come up with a workable solution for all involved.

Legal Advice

If mediation fails then you can apply to court for a Child Arrangements Order. This sets out who has contact with the child, how often this will be and for how long, as well as the issue of who is the resident parent.

Court proceedings should always be a last resort- it can be a stressful and expensive experience. Before making an application for an order it's advisable to seek legal advice.

How We Can Help?

Our experienced family lawyers here at Osborne, Morris & Morgan will help guide you through the process and provide you with a greater understanding of your legal position.

Call our friendly team on:

01525 378177

or send your enquiry via email:

info@ommlaw.co.uk

PAUL LOCKHART IS 'ROCK SOLID' AS HE RAISES OVER £500 FOR THE FUN AND HAPPINESS CHARITY, KIDSOUT

Having never undertaken a challenge like this before, Paul's hard work during training has paid off - as he completed the 15km obstacle race and raised over £500, surpassing his target of £300 for KidsOut.

A local charity, KidsOut provide positive experiences for children who are living in refuge, economic hardship or other acute disadvantages.

The race took place on 29th October and included inventive obstacles such as the 'River Run' and the 'Shawshank Escape' where competitors work together in teams to complete the challenge.

Congratulations Paul, from all of us here at OM&M

The money Paul has raised will help the 20,000 plus children who flee domestic violence - most of whom arrive with nothing, to seek sanctuary and receive new toys and go on fun days out.

"I was a bit worried before the race but really enjoyed it. I would recommend taking part to anyone as it was great fun and I had a great team to run with. I have already signed up for the 20km event next year".

Have you seen Danielle's winning family portrait on our news board?

The little artist from Royston fought off stiff competition from others to have her design featured on our board and social media. She also won a Family Pass to Woburn Safari Park.

6 year old, Danielle Cooper from Royston in Hertfordshire, won our competition in August, with her interpretation of her family.

We loved your portrait Danielle!

Danielle was so excited to hear she had won, "I didn't think I was going to win. I'm so, so happy that I got first place and actually won the competition. This is so exciting!".

Danielle and her family came in to see us and were presented with the prize in September.

Don't miss out! - We run several social media competitions throughout the year. To hear about the next one, simply "like" our Facebook page: **www.facebook.com/ommlaw**

Could eating a mince pie at Christmas be more than just bad for your waistline?!

The Legend

It is illegal in England to eat a mince pie on Christmas Day.

Evidence

Christmas was allegedly abolished by Oliver Cromwell in the mid-seventeenth century and this included mince pies and Christmas puddings. But the ban did not stand when Charles II became king.

Verdict

Myth!

Christmas Opening Hours

It will be business as usual at OMM up until 12.00pm on Friday 23rd December.

We will be closed for the festive period and will re-open at 9.00am on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER
Open 9.00am – 5.30pm

FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER
Open 9.00am – 12 noon only

SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER TO MONDAY 2ND JANUARY
Closed

TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY AND ONWARDS...
Open as usual 9.00am – 5.30pm

OSBORNE MORRIS & MORGAN ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

DID YOU KNOW?
We have provided disabled access and facilities since 1980.

Recommendation is not the only reason why our clients choose to use our professional services. For some, it's the ease of access when they come to see us.

We are committed to ensuring our facilities are accessible to all and are proud to provide people with complex disabilities and their carers with easy access.

Many firms are still Ill-equipped to meet criteria for disabled facilities set by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) and the Special Educational Needs and Disability (NI) Order 2005 (SENDO). But at Osborne Morris and Morgan, we take the needs and equal treatment of all our clients seriously and have provided disabled access and facilities since 1980.

Car Parking facilities

Car parking is free at our premises and we ensure a suitable car parking space is available for our disabled clients prior to their appointment

Main entrance and reception

A level access path leads to our building and our main entrance has wide opening doors to the spacious reception area. Comfortable seating is provided and a low table.

The access also benefits families with pushchairs.

Meeting Room

The accessible meeting room is located on the ground floor and is designed to allow wheelchair users adequate space to manoeuvre around the room.

Disabled Toilet

There is a disabled toilet also located on the ground floor and is equipped with an accessible sink, grab rails and an emergency assistance pull cord.

Additional Information

Assistance dogs are welcome at our offices.

We look forward to welcoming you at Osborne Morris & Morgan

Congratulations to Charlotte Bradfield

Winner of our Christmas Card Competition

Children up to 11 years of age were invited to show off their artistic abilities and enter our competition, for a chance to have their design on our Christmas card this year.

And it was 4-year-old, Charlotte Bradfield's snowman that was chosen by our team as the winning design!

Charlotte has won a trip to Milton Keynes Theatre for herself and her family, as well as a pack of cards featuring her design.

Charlotte's mum said of the news, "Thank you to Osborne Morris & Morgan for choosing Charlotte to be your winner. She only drew the picture for a bit of after school fun and didn't think she would win! She is very happy and looking forward to Santa coming to town. I hope everyone has a good Christmas".

Managing Partner, Tim Woolford, said "We received dozens of spectacular entries from children of all ages, but Charlotte's design was the favourite. Thank you to all our entrants who took the time to draw or paint for us".

Thank you Charlotte, for our spectacular Christmas card design!

FAMILY LAW CLINIC

10.00AM - 12.00 NOON
Each session lasts for 15 minutes

The family team at OMM are running free walk in Legal advice clinics on the last Thursday of every month* at our offices in West Street, Leighton Buzzard.

Our solicitors can advise on all aspects of family law, including:

- DIVORCE • SEPARATION
- FINANCIAL SETTLEMENTS
- CONTACT ISSUES CONCERNING CHILDREN

and much more...

To find out more, contact a member of the team on:

01525 378177

or send your enquiry via email:

info@ommlaw.co.uk

No need to book an appointment but slots are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Please note there will not be a clinic in December. The next clinic will be held on January 26th 2017*

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MERRY Christmas

Wishing all our clients peace of mind this Christmas

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