

The challenges of co-parenting during a pandemic

We are now in Week 4 of Lockdown in the Isle of Man which has presented issues for many families across the Island.

Whilst the government begins to 'relax' measures, separated and divorced parents, and especially their children, will continue to feel the effects more so than others as usual routines remain suspended or have been disrupted due to the government restrictions in place.

Meet the Key Contacts



Emma Ratcliffe

Family Law Advocate
emmaratcliffe@mannbenham.com

Emma is a senior advocate specialising in family law. Having qualified as a barrister at Manchester Metropolitan University in 2000, Emma worked in England at a leading family law firm. After qualifying as a Manx Advocate, Emma has practised as a specialist family lawyer and regularly appears before the Island's courts.



Melissa Bryan

Family Law Advocate
melissabryan@mannbenham.com

Melissa is an Advocate and Commissioner for Oaths who practices in all areas of family law work with a particular emphasis on family breakdown, financial settlement, cohabitation disputes and issues concerning children. Melissa regularly advises on issues concerning contact and residence, child maintenance and prohibited steps matters.

Whilst the Government has issued advice that under 18's can be moved between their parent's homes during lockdown, this is not a 'one size fits all' piece of guidance. Where possible the usual arrangements for contact should continue but this should only happen where it is safe to do so. Careful consideration needs to be given by both parents as to what suits their family and children best during the current circumstances. You should consider:

- Are there any key workers in your family unit?
- Are there vulnerable persons in either household?
- Is there a Court Order in place?
- Can your normal routine be temporarily altered to work better at the moment?
- Could indirect contact via WhatsApp, Facetime, Skype etc. be used to help?

The government guidance to prevent the spread of the virus should always be followed but communication is key at the moment which we know is not easy for everyone. A sensible approach should be taken by everybody during these unusual times but if you have experienced difficulties in navigating issues surrounding contact then we are here to help.

Our team are stepping up to the line to support you.

Contact us today on **01624 639350** or email us at **familyteam@mannbenham.com** for us to arrange a convenient time to call you back, either by telephone or video call.



Contact us today to arrange a convenient time for us to contact you
01624 639350 or **familyteam@mannbenham.com**



MannBenham

ADVOCATES • ADVISORY • FIDUCIARIES



49 Victoria Street
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM1 2LD



T: +44 (0)1624 639350
E: enquiries@mannbenham.com
W: www.mannbenham.com

MannBenham Advocates Limited is a company registered in the Isle of Man with company number 100904C
MannBenham Advisory is the business name of MannBenham Services Limited a company registered in the Isle of Man with company number 027473B
MannBenham Fiduciaries Limited is a company registered in the Isle of Man with company number 88712C and is licensed by the Isle of Man Financial Services Authority to provide Corporate and Trust Services