

## 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.

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.



### Meet your Key Contact



**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.

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ADVOCATES • ADVISORY • FIDUCIARIES



49 Victoria Street  
Douglas  
Isle of Man  
IM1 2LD



T: +44 (0)1624 639350  
E: [enquiries@mannbenham.com](mailto:enquiries@mannbenham.com)  
W: [www.mannbenham.com](http://www.mannbenham.com)

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