

TOP 11 PARENTING TIPS FOR SEPARATING OR SEPARATED PARENTS

1. Develop a co-parenting style that avoids conflict with the other parent.
2. Never involve your children in parental disagreements.
3. Do not let your emotions about the other person control the decisions you make regarding your children.
4. Treat your children as children, not as adults:
 - Avoid giving them information related to custody or finances
 - Avoid depending on them to fill your emotional needs
5. Never say bad or hurtful things about the other parent in front of your children.
6. Do not ask your children to find out about the other parent's life, which may involve them violating the other parent's trust.
7. Never pass messages or things to one another through your children; instead, speak directly with the other parent regarding the needs of the children and other co-parenting issues.
8. Correct any misconceptions the child has about your relationship with the other parent.
9. Recognize and respect the wide range of feelings that your child has regarding your relationship with the other parent.
10. Put in place a consistent set of rules for both houses.
11. Recognize that it may be important for your child to have a relationship with the other parent's family in addition to your own family.

Bryan C. Ginter
Mediator and Attorney at Law
Ginter Family Law
(916) 419-1161