



Massachusetts Divorced Parent Contingency Plans

by CAROLYN on MARCH 31, 2010

In the last few weeks, people from all over Norfolk and Bristol counties have become familiar with contingency plans. I've learned alternative routes to get to work (and have become much a more familiar with Medfield, Norfolk, Mills and Medway in the process). My parents learned just how many pumps are necessary to get 7 inches of water out of the basement of their Attleboro home! The incredibly creative people of Wayland have learned alternative ways to get around and surely have a new appreciation for [duck boats](#)! But it's not just those getting re-routed, pumping out water or finding alternative modes of transportation who need contingency plans – newly divorced parents need them too!

Here are some family contingency plans recently divorced parents often benefit from:

1. Childcare Fallbacks.

Sometimes recently separated/divorced parents are at a loss for what to do when something comes up and they need a babysitter. These parents seek out family,

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neighbors, parents of their kids' friends and other trusted adults (often even their former spouse) and check in with them to find out if/when they could help, if needed. Other parents interview potential emergency babysitters and get them used to their kids way way in advance to prepare for when they might need them. I even know one parent who has three fallback child care providers for each afternoon of the week, just in case she has to work late. Single parents with a long list of trusty fall backs are often those with the greatest peace of mind.

2. Estate Planning.

What happens if one parent passes away? Meeting with an estate planning attorney is often critical for parents who want to make sure their children are provided for in the event of their death. Trusts can be set up for the benefit of children and a trustee may be specifically named to oversee the distributions.

3. Financial Planning.

One benefit to the divorce process (*Yes, benefit!*) is that you have an opportunity to take a realistic look at what you have, what you owe and what you can afford. Many people going through a divorce also take advantage of the opportunity to see a financial planner who can help them figure out what they should spend, what they should save and how they can meet their financial goals.

4. New Family Traditions/Memories.

When parents divorce, traditions often change. While it is easy to focus on what is different from previous years or a lost sense of "normal," people sometimes forget that they now have new opportunities to make new traditions and memories with their family. You may not be going to your ex's parent's house for Christmas Eve, as you have done for the past fifteen years, but you do now have a freedom to start fresh. Whether it is a Fourth of July weekend camping getaway

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with Dad or a New Years Day family party with Mom, a new start gives parents new opportunities for creativity so take advantage! Looking for a day trip or something to do this weekend? Check out Boston.com's [Things To Do](#) page for things going on each day in Massachusetts. Seize the opportunity and enjoy the new freedom to create future memories.

For additional information relating estate planners or financial planners we recommend for divorcing couples, feel free to [give us a call](#) at The Divorce Collaborative. Stay dry!

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