

Tips on Child Custody and Holidays
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Holidays can be anything but idyllic for parents sharing custody of children. Therefore, I've put together the following list of tips for divorced parents to keep in mind during future holidays:

- Don't make your child feel guilty if you are not going to be together on the actual holiday. It's fine to tell your child you miss him or her but try to focus on making the child feel happy and excited about what is planned. Emphasize that you will celebrate with him or her on another day.
- Don't plan too much and don't set expectations too high if your child will be with you on the holiday. Focus on enjoying the time you spend with your child. Too many activities on a certain day can be overwhelming for both you and your child.
- If your child is not going to be with you, make plans for yourself. Find things to keep you busy so you aren't thinking about not being with your child.
- Create new traditions with your child. Don't try to recreate holidays spent when both parents were married or together. Move forward and incorporate things from the past while finding new things you and your child can call your own.

Hopefully, your parenting time schedule is very clear regarding your holiday schedule with your children, including drop-off and pick-up times for each holiday and which holidays are yours in the odd numbered years and which are yours in the even numbered years. If your custody and parenting time agreement is vague and leaves room for interpretation, consider revising the agreement through mediation or with your attorney to include times that work for both households. A vague custody agreement can often lead to unnecessary tension and disagreement, and even litigation



Timothy Durkin joined JacksonWhite in 2010, and quickly established himself as a highly effective family law attorney with the perfect balance of assertiveness and compassion. Tim is often complimented for his dedication to professional service, as he works closely with his clients to keep them informed, listen to their needs and involve them in the decision making process.

Tim handles all types of family law, including divorces, paternity actions, child custody, child support, relocation and jurisdiction issues, adoptions, termination of parental rights and parental severance actions, title 8 guardianships, spousal maintenance cases, division of marital property and debts, pre-nuptial agreements, post decree modifications and enforcement of custody and divorce orders, mediation services, grandparent visitation cases, and domestic violence issues. He is licensed to practice law in all Arizona State Courts, as well as the United States District Court, District of Arizona, and serves clients throughout the Phoenix metro area. To read more about what former clients are saying about hiring Tim, or to set up a free consultation, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law.

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