

Child's Bill of Rights When Parents are Divorced or Divorcing

by Lina Guillen Esq.

- 1) A child has the right to love and be loved by both parents and all members of the child's family.
- 2) Parents will not deny the child reasonable access to communicate with the other parent and relatives.
- 3) Neither parent shall speak or write derogatory remarks about the other parent to the child or engage in abusive, coarse or foul language that might be overheard by the child.
- 4) Parents should not argue, negotiate or discuss adult legal or business matters in the presence or ear shot of the child.
- 5) Neither parent will pressure, solicit or influence the child's view, opinion or position concerning legal proceedings between the parents.
- 6) Parents will allow the child to have and display photographs of the other parent (or both parents) if the child wishes.
- 7) Parents will refrain from expressing moral judgements to the child about the other parents choice of values, life style, social relationships, financial decisions or career status.
- 8) Parents will acknowledge positively to the child that the child has two homes, regardless of which home the child spends more time at.
- 9) The parents shall both work to cooperate in sharing and supporting time and experiences with the child.
- 10) Neither parent will trivialize or discourage in any way the relationship the child has with the other parent.
- 11) Neither parent will interrogate the child about the other parent nor will either parent discourage the child from speaking openly about the other parent.
- 12) Parents will not use the child as messenger to communicate with the other parent.
- 13) Neither parent will say or do things to try to gain the child as an "ally" against the other parent.
- 14) Neither parent will encourage or instruct the child to be disobedient to the other parent, stepparent, or relatives.
- 15) Neither parent will discuss child support or other financial issues with the child.
- 16) Neither parent will permit the child to be transported by a person who is intoxicated due to the consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- 17) Neither parent will smoke inside structures or vehicles occupied at the time by the child.