

Adapted from an Article on Psychology Today by Robert Emery, Phd

Are we really putting our children first after divorce?

The Children's Bill of Rights in Divorce

1. The right to love and be loved by both of your parents without feeling [guilt](#) or disapproval.
2. The right to be protected from your parents' [anger](#) with each other.
3. The right to be kept out of the middle of your parents' conflict, including the right not to pick sides, carry messages, or hear complaints about the other parent.
4. The right not to have to choose one of your parents over the other.
5. The right not to have to be responsible for the burden of either of your parents' emotional problems.
6. The right to know well in advance about important changes that will affect your life; for example, when one of your parents is going to move or get remarried.
7. The right to reasonable financial support during your [childhood](#) and through your college years.
8. The right to have feelings, to express your feelings, and to have both parents listen to how you feel.
9. The right to have a life that is as close as possible to what it would have been if your parents stayed together.
10. The right to be a kid.

And, I'm sorry but... if you're first reaction is, "Yes, but..." You don't get it.

"Yes, but... my \$#!% ex..."

"Yes, but... the %\$#@ @!! courts..."

"Yes, but... my #@%\$!^ lawyer or therapist or mediator..."

We know the right thing to do.

Doing the right thing is hard, because of your %\$#@! ex, &^%\$#! courts, ^%\$#! lawyer/therapist/mediator.

Why anyone would want to go through all the emotional effort?

I can think of only one reason (or 2 or 3 or 4 depending on how lucky you are).