



News Release

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Warrington's absent parents to be given new rights over their children

Warrington's absent parents could soon be given enhanced rights to be involved with their children under new 'shared parenting' proposals outlined by the Government, local law firm Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR) has advised.

Senior family partner Audrey Venables has welcomed the plans which will give the non-resident parent, usually the father, more involvement in their children's upbringing.

Audrey explained: "A fifth of children from broken homes currently lose touch with their absent parent within three years. Sometimes mothers can discourage their former partners from seeing their children by creating too many obstacles and that's a tragedy for the children.

"Many absent fathers want to have more contact time than every other weekend, which is often the ruling of the family court at the moment. These new proposals do not suggest that children spend an equal amount of time with each parent but do spell out that mothers and fathers are jointly responsible for their children's upbringing."

The Government will be consulting on how the law should be changed but believes that children must have an equal right to a proper relationship with both parents unless it's unsafe to do so. The proposals are designed to ensure that the parent who moves out of the family home, usually the father, cannot be cut out of their children's lives after an acrimonious break up.

In a radical shake up of the 1989 Children Act, the plans include encouraging Courts to punish parents who flout contact orders with fines, unpaid work or imprisonment and there are even proposals to introduce extra penalties like the withdrawal of passports, driving licences and curfew orders.

For more information, contact Audrey Venables at Forshaws Davies Ridgway on 01925 230000. www.fdrilaw.co.uk.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

For further information, please contact: Audrey Venables at FDR Warrington on 01925 230000, email Audrey.venables@fdrilaw.co.uk.

About Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP (FDR)

- FDR is a full service legal practice with five offices in Cheshire and Warrington
- 18 Partners
- Over 120 staff
- Top 15 practice in NW
- Top 200 practice in England & Wales
- Mortgage Strategy Awards 2009 & 2010 'Best Conveyancer' Runner Up
- Services include: Commercial Law, Conveyancing, Criminal, Family, Litigation, Wills & Probate

Issued by

Lynn Pegler, Pegler Communications

Tel: 01928 789042. Mob: 07783 686246. lynn@peglercommunications.co.uk

On behalf of Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP