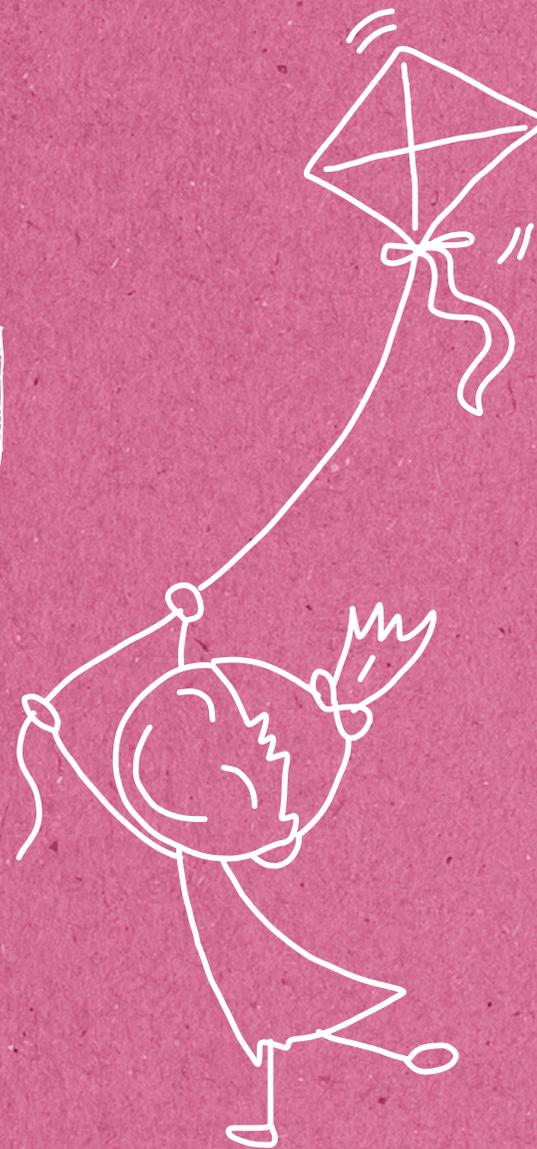


Your Parenting Plan

Stakeholder Toolkit



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Your Parenting Plan is designed to provide guidance for families going through separation or divorce with the welfare of children at its heart.

First published in 2006, as the Parenting Agreement for Scotland, it has been refreshed by the Scottish Government.

This toolkit has been developed to provide you with background and resources, and ask for your support in raising awareness of Your Parenting Plan within your networks to help as many families as possible access practical advice.

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What is Your Parenting Plan?

Developed by The Scottish Government, Your Parenting Plan is a guide to making practical arrangements for children if parents are planning to live apart, divorcing or separating.

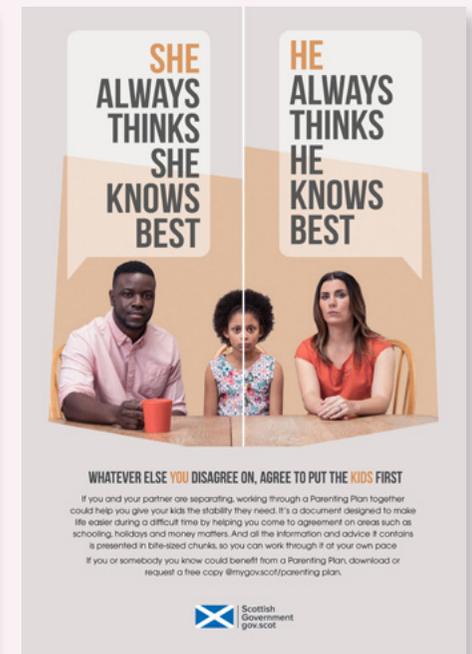
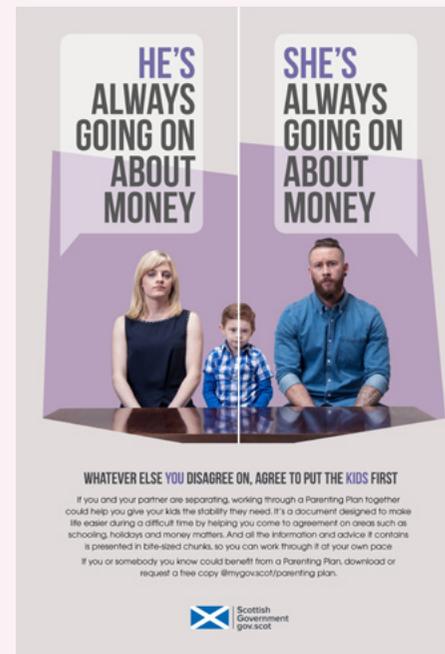
Parenting Plans are used in many different situations, from separated parents living singly, to families with children from more than one relationship and by parents who have never lived together as a couple. A Plan is a voluntary agreement between parents that also reflects the wishes of their children. It can help parents who live apart to work together to make sure that their children's needs are met in the best way possible.

Parenting Plans are not just for 'biological' parents. For example, children in a stepfamily that is separating may want and need to keep up their relationships with their step-parent, their children and other friends and relatives.

The Plan has been written with the help of experts in family relationships and family law and builds on a similar resource for parents in Scotland that was first published in 2006.

The resource is targeted at parents, grandparents and also advisors from a variety of sectors (e.g. legal, health, education, social care, money advice, housing and others). If it's safe and appropriate, advisors can support families to draw up a Parenting Plan or help them find more specialised assistance, for example from a family mediator.

A Plan is a voluntary agreement between parents that also reflects the wishes of their children.



What's in a Parenting Plan?

All families are different and things change over time, so no two Parenting Plans will be the same.

Your Parenting Plan provides constructive advice to help families to agree about some or all of the following:

- Where children will live and when they will spend time with each parent
- Who else can look after them
- How children can maintain relationships with other people who are important to them
- School and school holidays
- Trips away and special days such as birthdays, Christmas and other celebrations
- Health
- Money matters
- How to share important information about the children
- How to review the plan as children grow up or circumstances change



Spreading the message

Parents can read, download or request a paper copy of Your Parenting Plan at mygov.scot/parentingplan

With your help, we're aiming to reach those who would benefit from Your Parenting Plan, and encourage them to visit the website to find out more.

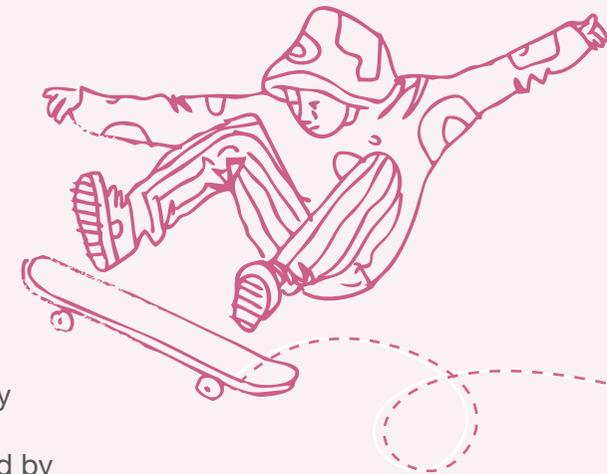
Your Parenting Plan can be accessed via the newly launched 'Divorce, Separation and Living Apart' section of the mygov.scot website, which provides sources of advice which may be of use to parents including information on child maintenance and benefits.

The website includes [Parenting Plan Guidance notes](#) for legal professionals, educators and others who work with parents and children, containing information on how to support parents to make a Parenting Plan. There is also a [Charter for Grandchildren](#) with information on the role of the wider family in supporting children when their parents live apart or their families are experiencing difficulties.

We'd really appreciate your assistance in raising awareness of Your Parenting Plan, its purpose and benefits by:

- Promoting Your Parenting Plan through your own channels – we've provided suggested social media posts and newsletter/intranet copy for you to adapt and use
- Using the hashtag [#yourparentingplan](#) across any posts
- Downloading or requesting copies of the documents for use within your organisation - copies can be requested by emailing parentingplan@smartscommunicate.com
- Downloading or requesting posters to promote Your Parenting Plan in your organisation – copies can be requested by emailing parentingplan@smartscommunicate.com
- Forwarding the Toolkit to relevant colleagues to extend reach

“I liked that mum and dad both asked me what I thought.”



Social Media Examples



Here's some sample tweets you may wish to post to show your support:

Separating, divorcing or planning to live apart? Your Parenting Plan can provide practical advice on how to put the kids first
bit.ly/2vqoPOw #yourparentingplan

Your Parenting Plan can guide you through making practical arrangements for your children if you plan to live apart, separate or divorce
bit.ly/2vqoPOw #yourparentingplan

If you and your partner are separating or divorcing, working through a parenting plan together could give your kids the stability they need
- find out more at bit.ly/2vqoPOw #yourparentingplan



Similarly, we've prepared some sample Facebook posts for you to use too:

Your Parenting Plan has launched to help families going through separation or divorce. If you or someone you know could benefit from practical advice focused on putting the kids first, download or request a free copy here
bit.ly/2vqoPOw #yourparentingplan

Separating, divorcing or planning to live apart? Talking to each other and involving your child's teachers will help protect their wellbeing during a difficult time. Take the first step by visiting bit.ly/2vqoPOw for advice and information
#yourparentingplan

Good communication between separating parents is key to putting the children first. Practical advice on working through decisions about schooling, holidays and money matters can be found at bit.ly/2vqoPOw #yourparentingplan

A Parenting Plan can help parents who are separating or divorcing to ensure their children's wishes and needs are met. If you or someone you know could benefit, visit bit.ly/2vqoPOw for more information #yourparentingplan

Website/newsletters/e-zine



We've also provided a sample article to help you promote Your Parenting Plan in newsletters, e-zines or online:

Whatever else you disagree on, agree to put the kids first

Developed by The Scottish Government, Your Parenting Plan is a guide to making practical arrangements for children if parents are planning to live apart, divorcing or are separating.

Parenting Plans are used by parents in many different situations, from separated parents living singly, to families with children from more than one relationship and by parents who have never lived together as a couple. A Parenting Plan is a voluntary agreement between parents that also reflects the wishes of their children. It can help parents who live apart to work together to make sure that their children's needs are met in the best way possible.

Your Parenting Plan is free to download and working through it can help families to give the kids the stability they need. It's designed to make life easier during a difficult time, with the information and resources provided in bite-sized chunks. If you or someone you know could benefit, visit mygov.scot/parentingplan where you can download a copy of the plan or request a paper copy.

Contacts

Thank you for your support of Your Parenting Plan.
If you have any questions please contact the
partnerships team.

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