

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of BASK	Date for next review
13 July 2021	Andy McEwing	July 2025

BASK Separated Family Policy

At BASK we recognise that when parents separate it can be a difficult situation for all concerned. We understand that emotions may run high and this policy sets out how we will support all parties in within BASK including our staff team. Staff will work closely with the parents to build close relationships which will support the child's/children's emotional well-being and will report any significant changes in behaviour to the parent. Parents will be signposted to relevant services and organisation for support for the whole family.

Parental responsibility

While the law does not define in detail what parental responsibility is, the following list sets out some of the key features of someone holding parental responsibility. These include:

- Providing a home for the child
- Having contact with and living with the child
- Protecting and maintaining the child
- Disciplining the child
- Choosing and providing for the child's education
- Determining the religion of the child
- Agreeing to the child's medical treatment
- Naming the child and agreeing to any change of the child's name
- Accompanying the child outside the UK and agreeing to the child's emigration, should the issue arise
- Being responsible for the child's property
- Appointing a guardian for the child, if necessary
- Allowing confidential information about the child to be disclosed.

Scotland

A father has parental responsibility if he is married to the mother when the child is conceived, or any time after that date. An unmarried father has parental responsibility if he is named on the child's birth certificate (from 4 May 2006). Alternatively, unmarried fathers can also be named following a re-registration of the birth.

BASK registration

During the registration process we collect details about both parents including where applicable who has parental responsibility, in anticipation that this will help to avoid any future difficult situations.

We will:

- Ensure the child's welfare is paramount at all times they are in BASK
- Invite both parents to BASK events, including parental consultations and social events where both hold parental responsibility
- Ensure any incident or accident within BASK relating to the child is reported to the person collecting the child

- Ensure that all matters known by the staff pertaining to the family and the parent's separation remain confidential
- Ensure that no member of staff takes sides regarding the separation and treats both parents equally and with due respect
- Not restrict access to any parent with parental responsibility unless a formal court order is in place. We respectfully ask that parents do not put us in this position.

We ask parents to:

- Update any changes to emergency contact information as soon as practicably possible
- Work with us to ensure continuity of care and support for your child
- Not involve BASK staff in any family disputes, nor ask BASK to take sides in any dispute.
- Talk to the manager away from the child when this relates to family matters in order to avoid the child becoming upset. This can be arranged as a more formal meeting or as an informal chat