

A NEWSLETTER FROM

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Family Matters

A Parent is Relocating: What's the Procedure?

Here's a scenario that many divorced and separated parents confront in our mobile society.

The ink is dry on the divorce judgment. Mark and Marla have a court-approved schedule for sharing time with their children. Both parents have been taking full advantage of their parenting time and the schedule has been working reasonably well. Then Marla, the parent with whom the children primarily live, announces that she plans to move three states away with the children.



Mark is stunned and understandably distressed. The new location is so far away that he will not be able to see the children regularly, at least not

without inordinate expense.

Can Marla just pull up stakes

SEE 'RELOCATION' ON PAGE 2

and move? Or does she need the court's permission? Does the reason for moving matter? What recourse does Mark have to prevent the move and keep the children close?

Reasons for Relocating

The relocation of a family is a common event. Most families with children relocate every few years in an intact marriage, so it is not surprising that single parents would do the same. There are many compelling reasons for wanting to relocate.

- Many parents have extended family in another state. During a time of crisis, such as the breakup of a marriage, it is natural to reach out to that extended family for financial and emotional support.
- A parent may experience a layoff, get a better job offer, or be transferred.
- A parent in the service may be reassigned.
- A parent may want to marry someone who lives far away and move to his or her home.
- A parent may have



remarried a local, but then the new spouse takes a new job or is transferred to a different location.

Sometimes a parent wants to relocate with the children out of spite or to avoid persistent conflict with the other spouse. Expect a court to be unsympathetic to a move for these “bad faith” reasons.

The Procedure

Most states have enacted statutes specifying the steps that must be taken by the relocating parent. The purpose of these laws is to ensure that the relocating parent doesn't simply leave town without a word to the other parent and that the other parent has an

opportunity to contest the move. These statutes will define “relocation” so that the procedure is not triggered by a local move.

While the details vary from state to state, these laws typically require the following steps:

Notice to the court. Within a specified period, (often at least 30 days) the spouse intending to relocate must file with the court a notice of relocation or a petition for modification (to modify the custody/visitation provisions) of the original order.

Notice to the other parent. A copy of the notice or the petition must be given

(usually by certified mailing) to the other parent advising of the intended relocation.

Notice to grandparents. If grandparents have a valid grandparent visitation order from the issuing court, the relocating parent must also furnish notice to the grandparents of the intended relocation.

Contact information at the new location. The petition or notice usually contains the physical and mailing address of the proposed relocation residence, new phone numbers and the approximate dates when the relocation is intended to take effect.

The non-moving parent's options. The non-moving parent has options that he or she must make known to the other parent and the court within a specific amount of time as do the grandparents, if applicable.

These options include the following:

- a. consent to the relocation;
- b. object to the relocation

and petition for injunctive relief requesting an order keeping the children from relocating;

- c. object to the children's relocation and file a counter-petition with the court asking that custody be changed to him or her;
- d. some states include a requirement that the parties (including grandparents where applicable) attempt mediation or other alternative dispute resolution technique before requesting a court hearing.

If a contested hearing is requested, many states

accommodate the parties and place the matter on an advanced, priority calendar. (This priority, however, may be ideal, depending on the workload of the court and the already overloaded judicial calendar.)

If you are planning a move of any significant distance with your children, check with your attorney to see if you must comply with these procedures. Failure to follow them can hurt your case and even result in a change of custody. 📌

Illustrations by Storyset



6 Easy Indoor Gardening Tips

Many of us struggle with properly caring for indoor plants, but keeping them happy and healthy doesn't have to be a mystery. With the correct application of water and light, along with selecting proper pots and soil, you can drastically strengthen any interior garden. Follow these quick and easy tips to bolster your green thumb.

Pot Priorities

It may seem counterintuitive, but plants can actually drown. To prevent this, select pots that have holes in the bottom. This allows for water drainage and will keep roots from becoming too hydrated. As for style, plants can grow in just about anything, but wood and unglazed clay containers will absorb more water than plastic or other non-porous materials, potentially robbing the soil of valuable moisture.

Soil Selection

While gathering soil from your backyard may be tempting, avoid that urge and instead acquire potting soil from your local garden center. Normal ground soil can be tainted with insects, harmful fungi, and other nasty things that can damage often-delicate indoor



plants. Potting soil, on the other hand, is specifically tailored for plant health and sometimes contains built-in fertilizer.

Lovely Light

Some plants love sunlight

while others prefer shade. Certain versatile plants and flowers can deal with varying light sources. Before purchasing anything, think about your house. Where will the greenery live? Set your plants up for success



by reading about their light preferences and selecting accordingly. Ask your garden center for assistance if need be.

When to Water

As noted above, it is possible to easily drown many types of indoor plants via over-watering, so avoid dousing them every day. In general, you will want to keep the soil moderately moist with light watering. Once water drips out of the holes on the bottom of the pot, the soil is fully soaked and no more water is needed. Though

tempting, refrain from spraying flowers and leaves, as this can cause damaging fungal diseases.

Frequent Feeding

Over time, potted soil is robbed of its nutrients as plants absorb some and water washes the rest away. To rectify this, begin a feeding regimen to ensure your plant is receiving the very best sustenance. A wide variety of easy-to-use fertilizers, including those that are time-released, can be acquired online or at any garden center.

Timely Trimming

If you want your plants to keep growing, cutting off dead or faded flowers and leaves is essential. This sends a message to the plant that it should produce new foliage. In some cases, a plant with many faded portions may even need to be drastically trimmed back to a fraction of its existing size. In such cases, reduce the plant to about 1/3 of its current proportions. It will thank you by roaring back in a week or two. 📌

Illustrations by Storyset



Autumn Around the World

Originally known as “Harvest,” autumn (or fall) is a celebration of the equinox that ushers in shorter days, longer nights, and the bittersweet transition from summer. While to many, autumn brings the smell of pumpkin spice, dreams of turkey, and a time change that might throw you a little

off kilter, this season has many different associations across the globe. Take a look at some of these autumnal traditions and celebrations around the world:

India

Who says it has to get darker earlier? India celebrates autumn (and the Hindu New

Year) with the Festival of Lights (“Diwali”), an enormous celebration with millions of lights, candles, and fireworks on display.

Thailand

Another festival of lights (“Loi Krathong”) is celebrated in Thailand, where they honor the water goddess

by releasing candles onto floating baskets in different bodies of water.

China

Move over pumpkin pie—in China, they celebrate with mooncakes, and the focus is turned up at the sky rather than the changing leaves with a mid-autumn festival that celebrates the full moon.

Kenya

Though it takes place in Kenya, the autumn Mombasa

Carnival is a celebration of many different African cultures. Traditional costumes and cuisine from different countries are all featured in this massive multi-cultural parade.

Mexico

During the Day of The Dead (“Dia De Los Muertos”), people in Mexico (and all across South America, too) celebrate their deceased loved ones with colorful costumes, parades, and skulls.

United Kingdom

Everyone knows about Germany’s infamous Oktoberfest, but did you know about the UK’s Guy Fawkes Night? In November, thousands of Brits get together and celebrate the arrest of Guy Fawkes (an arrest which thwarted a plot to blow up parliament and assassinate the king) with bonfires and fireworks. 📌

Illustrations by Storyset



Souvlaki Chicken

Prep 15 mins | Cook 15 mins | Total 30 mins | Yield 6 Servings

Traditional Greek souvlaki chicken makes for an easy, flavorful and casual meal. Serve with Tzatziki sauce or Ottolenghi's Burnt Eggplant and Yogurt Dip.

INGREDIENTS

- 6 cloves of garlic
- 1 T dried oregano
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- Kosher salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
- 2 pounds skinless boneless chicken breasts



INSTRUCTIONS

Combine garlic, oregano, lemon juice and red wine vinegar in a small bowl. Whisk in the olive oil and season with salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

Cut chicken into 2" pieces. Put the chicken pieces in a ziplock bag or in a shallow container to marinate. Pour marinade over the chicken, seal or cover and refrigerate for 24 to 48 hours, or whatever time you have. Just a few hours will be good if that's all the time you have.

Heat the grill to medium high and cook the skewers, turning periodically for 10 - 15 minutes until cooked through.

Serve with warm pita bread and Tzatziki sauce or Burnt Eggplant and Yogurt Dip Ottolenghi. 