



Halloween is a day, an event, a potential upset stomach kids look forward to each year! How creative have you been able to be to maintain a Halloween Tradition? Especially now that there is COVID to contend with too...! We do not think you can costume too much, too often, or too long. Don your costume now and have some monstrous fun...maybe for the whole week... where else do you have to be...? You and your family will be glad you did! Here are some questions to consider and points to remember.

1. Are there provisions in your existing parenting agreement that will impact your plans? Halloween is next Saturday. Is it your day, your partner's day, are you sharing the day, are you just saying we are taking a Halloween gap year in 2020? Have a clear plan for the week, weekend or day so that the fun will go eerily easily.

2. If you are celebrating or trick or treating, what makes the most sense logistically, geographically and from a safety perspective for your children? The CDC has recommended you avoid having the children take part in indoor activities like costume parties. They suggest that you limit interaction with people outside your household or personal community. Can you share the time with you co-parent? If yes, great...enjoy perhaps the start of a new tradition. If no, is there an organic or logical split of time over the course of Halloween day or weekend? Are there activities in a Mall or other public arena which you would feel comfortable having your children participate in?

3. Do you have a backup plan in place? The back-up could just consider good and bad weather, a child having an upset stomach from too much candy,

or children wanting to be with friends rather than family. What will be the adjustments that will be made, if need be?

4. Are you 'competing' with your co-parent to devise the most exciting and fun 2020 holiday? DON'T. Conflicts can arise by well-intended but inconsiderate plans or scheduling. If none exist, don't create problems, competition or conflict. Be creative! Dress in costume and pay a visit to a local pumpkin patch or haunted forest or your grocery store. Pick a favorite restaurant and dine outside or use curbside pickup...in costume. Set out a Halloween candy buffet dinner that can be shared by all while watching a favorite scary Halloween-themed movie!

5. Making the day about your kids. The Halloween holiday is a kid and kid at heart holiday. Make this a special day, a fun treat for all. Participating and seeing everyone having a great time and knowing that they're doing so safely is a great treat for all. Have the kids put on their costumes and do a (socially distanced) costume parade through the neighborhood; add in an outdoor scavenger hunt. The kids can "win" their treat for each house they pass and/or scavenger hunt item they spot.

On a scary note, don't forget: Thanksgiving is 5 weeks away...Christmas Eve (Thursday) and Christmas Day (Friday) are 9 weeks away. YIKES...start planning NOW!



"It will never rain roses. If we want to have more roses, we must make the effort to plant more roses." -- George Eliot

The holiday season will be here before you know it: do you have your parenting time schedule figured out? If your answer is 'yes', Congratulations on being proactive!

Don't let the combination of COVID-19 and the coming holiday season contribute to your stress. If you need any assistance in getting your holiday parenting schedule worked out to reduce that stress load, call the office today at 630-221-9300 to schedule a consultation or mediation session.

The Law Office of Brigid A. Duffield, P.C. wishes you

a Halloween that's fun, just the right amount of scary, and best of all: conflict-free!

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