

***Did you know?***

When you're working out a child custody agreement, it's easy to overlook a special day like Halloween. It may have a different level of significance to one or both parents and different again to the kids. As difficult as co-parenting may be, it's important to set aside your own issues for the sake of the kids, and make this special day a treat for them!



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***Top Tips & Tricks to Make  
This Halloween a Treat\*!***

\* = Works for other holidays too!

1) **Keep the holiday about the kids.** Holidays and special events are about family and the kids. When you keep that in mind, it makes making decisions much easier. Separate and if possible, remove your hurt, resentments and anger from the equation and use the child's welfare as your primary consideration. Suddenly the big problems don't seem nearly as big.

2) **Ask the children for their "age appropriate" input.** Do they want to trick or treat, where would they like to trick or treat? Are there family and friends they'd like to be with? Are there other events they might rather do? Whenever possible and/or practical, try to honor their request and avoid giving them an 'either/or' scenario. Let them be kids and enjoy the day, not make choices based on any conflict surrounding Mom and Dad or the divorce.

3) **Keep your expectations reasonable AND realistic.** Organize your thoughts and expectations ahead of time, and make sure they're realistic. Getting together as Mom & Dad, even when it's just for a few hours (shared trick-or-treating, a school event, a holiday meal) can be stressful. Never badmouth the other parent, or extended family members, and NEVER put the kids in the position of feeling like they must defend or justify the actions of the other parent. Remember, the only thing you can truly control is how YOU react and conduct yourself.

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**Trick or Treat Alternatives**

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**Justinian Society  
DuPage Chapter  
October 19, 2018**

Doubletree Suites by Hilton  
2111 Butterfield Road  
Downers Grove, IL 60516

**Register or Questions?**

Contact Liz Pope  
630-279-6800

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**Lawyer's Assistance  
Program Annual Dinner  
November 1, 2018**

Union League Club of  
Chicago  
65 W. Jackson  
Chicago, IL 60604

**Register or Questions?**

Contact Shelly Sandoval  
ssandoval@illinoislap.org  
312-726-6607

**Purchase Tickets**

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**Veteran's Day 5k  
Run/Walk to benefit  
Midwest Shelter  
for Homeless Vets  
November 3, 2018**

Cantigny Park

**Look for a "Trunk or Treat" event.** Shopping malls, local churches, libraries, and community groups often organize these events which are held in a central location, and are easily moved indoors in case of bad weather. (No more wearing a winter coat over a prized costume!)

**Throw a Halloween Block Party.** Get your neighbors together and throw a block party that's all about the fun and family. Put together a central candy/snack stand, let kids customize their goodie bags (with crayon and markers), have a costume parade, and let everyone vote on the best decorated house on the block. (If you're feeling Halloween Happy and it's not too creepy, you could invite the other parent to join you)

**Host a Halloween Open House.** Kids and adults can all take part, with games, movies, goodie bags, and Halloween-themed snacks.



1S151 Winfield Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189

Registration

Questions?

Contact Brian Gray  
bgray@cantigny.org  
630-260-8167

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**November 12, 2018**

***Veteran's Day Observed***

DuPage County  
Offices Closed

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**November 14, 2018**

***DCBA/DAWL Veteran's  
Day Luncheon & Seminar***

**12 noon - 4:00 pm**

Attorney Resource Center  
505 N. County Farm Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60187

**Contact:**

Robert Rupp  
[rrupp@dcbaw.org](mailto:rrupp@dcbaw.org)  
630-653-7779

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***"Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to  
handle conflict by peaceful means." -- Ronald Reagan***

The holiday season is approaching quickly! Is your parenting time schedule all figured out? If 'yes' - congratulations on being proactive!

If you need some assistance in getting the details of your holiday parenting schedule worked out, call the office today at 630-221-9300 to schedule a mediation session. Go into the holiday season without stress and worry about where the kids will be and when!

***The Law Office of Brigid A. Duffield, P.C. wishes you a  
happy, productive, and conflict-free Halloween!***

**Brigid A. Duffield**  
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