



## Happy Spring...Happy Easter!

Spring is here! Spring is often seen as a time of growth and renewal - a time to envision and recreate new possibilities. It's a time to let go of the old especially when it comes to old ideas, resentments, grudges and anger against your former (or soon-to-be former) spouse, employer, siblings or friends. No matter how wounded you may feel, the job of good parenting and getting your children to their adult life successfully still has to be done, no matter what personal obstacles you are overcoming.

Here are some ideas on ways to "spring" forward for your well-being and that of those around you.

**Confirm your parenting schedule.** Easter is Sunday, April 21. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. Memorial Weekend is May 25-May 27, Father's Day is Sunday, June 17. Whose weekends are these? Where will the children be when? These all create the possibility that a family that is on an every-other-weekend schedule, may, if not planned for, have 3 weekends in a row. What about the last day of school for the year? Is there a snow day that will delay the end of school by a day or more? If you've already got your schedule set, congratulations!

**What is the summer, sport & music camp, vacation and holiday schedule?** The 4th of July is on a Thursday this year. Whose time is it, yours or your coparent's? Do any of the summer vacation plans overlap on someone's weekend or otherwise interfere with someone's parenting time? And is that agreed, or yet to be decided? And with regard to camps and other activities, has the hard discussion about how much it costs and who's paying been started?

**Details, details, details.** They don't need to be obsessed

## Upcoming Events



### **TAX DAY 2019:** **Monday, April 15!**

Do you need **IRS Form 8332, Release of Claim for Exemption for Child Support of Divorced or Separated Parents?** Please call our office and we'll get one out to you right away.

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**April 11, 2019**  
**DuPage Association of Women Lawyers**  
**Judicial Reception**  
Arrowhead Golf Club  
Wheaton, IL  
5:30 pm

**Questions? Contact:**  
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**April 30, 2019**

over, but the devil is in the details. Most of the conflicts we see are 1) in the 11th hour, 2) most of the time avoidable, and 3) create unnecessary strife for people. We suggest you do the hard work, make it a point to work out exactly where your children will be during what times, and when, where, and how exchanges are going take place. Aggravation and disappointment though perhaps not eliminated, will definitely be reduced.

**Treat the other parent as a "business partner".**

Friendships can be challenging and often create expectations and disappointments, especially with a former (or soon-to-be former) spouse. If that happens, treat it like a business relationship instead. You don't even have to like each other...and you probably already don't! Create a working relationship that is formal, structured, and polite, with clear rules of behavior. And make sure your communication stays focused on the key element of your "project": your kids.

**Communicate and coordinate with your "business partner"...NOW.**

A short but informative email, voice mail, text, conversation (if you can manage it) or a picture of the calendar that you believe is accurate, can get everyone on the same page and will eliminate duplication of or overlapping efforts.

**Keep the objective in mind.** Your successful "business venture" will result in you and your children being more emotionally and physically healthy, feeling safe and secure. Your children will have parents and adults in their lives who are modeling success at managing conflict, demonstrating problem-solving skills, and understand the value of compromise in relationships.

As adults, we share the responsibility and control for children's lives, ours and others. What better time to let go of the old and focus on renewal efforts than in the Spring?

**Law Day Luncheon 2019**

Le Jardin @ Cantigny Park  
(enter from Winfield Rd.)

1S151 Winfield Rd.

Wheaton, IL

11:15 am-1:00 pm

**Questions? Contact:**

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***"No winter lasts forever. No spring skips its turn." - Hal Borland***

**The Law Office of Brigid A. Duffield would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support of our clients and friends, and thank you for your confidence and your referrals, which are the highest honor we can receive!**

**Brigid A. Duffield**

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