



The Law Office of Brigid A. Duffield, P.C., recognizes that planning for Mother's Day during or after divorce can cause stress or tension between parents and extended family members. However, this is a wonderful day to celebrate Mom and a great opportunity to show your kids that even if you're no longer together as parents (and perhaps don't like each other), you have the skills set to set aside differences and acknowledge and respect Mom's role in the family. Here are some tips to help make celebrating Mother's Day a more enjoyable experience for everyone!

**1. Make a mental, emotional and spiritual commitment to yourself.** Make a concerted effort to avoid the opportunities for conflict that might come up with the day. Your kids love both their parents. Love is demonstrated for them when you assure them that they do not have to choose between parents and that they can freely celebrate the holiday without negative commentary from you or your extended family. (Moms, this will be coming back to you next Month with the Father's Day newsletter!) No hassle, no pressure - transitions, separation or divorce don't change the fact that Mom is Mom. The opportunity to do something special with or for Mom should be the priority for the day.

**2. Lead/Teach by example.** Despite what may have transpired in your relationship, or anything that led up to its change, the holiday is one day to free yourself and your family of the "issues and the alleged "truth". This is an opportunity to take the High Road and model for your child and their extended families that you value doing the right thing first and foremost. The children are your innocent bystanders - try not to put them in the middle or punish them for your feelings. Instead, show them you respect and when possible, honor, the relationship between them and their Mom.

**3. Support their relationship with Mom.** If the children have an idea of what they would like to do for Mom, support it, within reason. Let the kids plan what they'd like to do for Mom and help them as much as you can to make their plans happen. Grand gestures aren't necessary. Instead, take your children to make or pick out a card and/or a gift for Mom. No matter how you might feel about it, you're helping them do something that's going to make them feel good about themselves.

**4. Turnabout is fair play.** The investment of time and money in helping your child buy or create a gift for your ex...might at first be painful and may not be reciprocated. You probably hope your ex will assist your child and be supportive of their efforts to be thoughtful when it comes to the day that honors you, Father's Day, your birthday. Anticipate and be flexible with changes in parenting time to accommodate the schedule. If you're willing to help your child make the day special, Mom may be more inclined to make the same effort when Father's Day comes around.

**5. Be aware, children worry.** Even if they don't say anything, they worry. They may be concerned about you perceiving them as being "disloyal" or picking sides. They may also worry about you and that you won't have a good day if they're not with you. It's an opportunity to assure them that despite your differences, you and your co-parent are still a team, there are no "sides" and that the two of you can "play well together"...Long term, you are setting the stage for your invitation OR NOT to their graduations, weddings, birth of your first grandchild and so much more of your hopes and dreams for your wee ones!

### Upcoming Events

**DuPage County Justinian  
Society of Lawyers  
Annual Installation Dinner  
May 16, 2019**

5:30 pm  
Arrowhead Golf Club  
Wheaton

Questions? Contact:  
Michelle Doyle  
mdoyle@spydavlaw.com  
630-810-8884

**Taste of Wheaton &  
Cosley Zoo  
Run for the Animals  
May 30-June 2, 2019**

Run: June 1 @ 7:30 am  
Memorial Park  
Wheaton

For more information, visit:  
[Taste of Wheaton 2019](#)

**DuPage Association of  
Women Lawyers  
Installation  
May 30, 2019**

5:30 pm  
Top Golf-Naperville  
3211 Odyssey Ct  
Naperville

For more information,  
contact:  
Rebecca Krawczykowski  
dawlawyers@gmail.com  
815-600-8950

**DuPage County  
Bar Association President's  
Ball & Installation of  
Officers**

June 7, 2019  
6:00 pm-11:00 pm  
Prairie Landing  
2325 Longest Drive  
West Chicago

For more information:  
Robert Rupp  
rrupp@dcba.org  
630-653-7779



*Father's Day  
Sunday, June 16, 2019*

**2019 DCBA Golf Outing**  
**August 22, 2019**  
Cantigny Golf Course  
27W270 Mack Road  
Wheaton, IL  
12 Noon Lunch  
1:00 pm Shotgun Start

*For more information, visit:  
2019 Golf Outing Info*

*From our Archives...*

***You Know You're a Mother - A True Conflict Resolver -  
When...***

- 1. You consider finger paints*** to be a controlled substance and allow only the non-toxic kind in your home.
- 2. You have a conversation*** with the Mom of the kid who broke your child's favorite toy, instead of taking a contract out or getting litigious.
- 3. You count the sprinkles*** on each kid's cupcake to make sure they're equal--or at least equitable.
- 4. You've mastered both the art*** of placing large quantities of pancakes and eggs on a plate without anything touching and making pancake sandwiches.
- 5. You secretly marvel that your kids are always*** the cutest, the best-dressed, and the most polite while you are making a genuinely generous comment to the another Mom about her kids.
- 6. You read that the average*** 5-year-old asks 437 questions a day and feel proud that your kid is "above average." Then you encourage them to ask more.
- 7. You hear your mother's voice*** coming out of your mouth when you say "Not in your good clothes!" and you don't wince!
- 8. You stop criticizing the way*** your mother raised you, and you call her to thank her for doing the best she could with what she had.
- 9. You donate time and money*** to a specific charity in hope and with gratitude that your child doesn't have that disease.
- 10. You say at least once a day*** "I'm not cut out for this job," knowing all the while you wouldn't trade it for anything.



***"God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers."  
Rudyard Kipling***

***Sending our best wishes to all for a  
Happy Mother's Day!***

Brigid A. Duffield  
Attorney/Mediator/Speaker/Author  
The Law Office of Brigid A. Duffield, P.C.  
630.221.9300  
brigid@brigidduffield.com  
www.brigidduffield.com

***P.S. Look for our Father's Day email in June!***

Attorney Disclaimer: This email is general information only and should not be construed to be formal legal advice or the formation of an attorney/client relationship.