

**The Rights of Children**

The following "Bill of Rights for Children Whose Parents Are Divorced or Separated" was drafted by Justice James Brands of Duchess County Family Court, New York, and Justice Ira Harkavy of Supreme Court, Kings County, New York.

* The right not to be asked to "choose sides" between their parents
* The right not to be told the details of bitter or nasty legal proceedings going on between their parents
* The right not to be told "bad things" about the other parent's personality or character
* The right to privacy when talking to either parent on the phone
* The right not to be cross-examined by one parent after spending time with the other parent
* The right not be asked to be a messenger from one parent to the other
* The right not to be asked by one parent to tell the other parent untruths
* The right not to be used as a confidant regarding the legal proceedings between the parents
* The right to express feelings, whatever feelings those may be
* The right to choose not to express certain feelings
* The right to be protected from parental warfare
* The right not to be made to feel guilty for loving both parents

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