



# Family Law

CALL US - BEFORE  
YOUR EX DOES!



Roxanne C. Shank  
LAWYER

## Q

My wife and I separated this year, and now my wife says she's taking the kids away for Christmas and I can't see them. What can I do?

## A

The hardest issue after separation is navigating the fluid and ever-changing challenge of how the two of you are going to deal with the children. The old TV show may have been entitled *Married with Children*, but it is actually much harder to be separated/divorced with children.

In Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*, the plot revolves around the tug of war surrounding Pamina and her parents. Her mother withheld her from her father while she was growing up, and now her father has stolen Pamina from her mother, who is enraged and instructs Pamina to stab 'that fiend' as she describes him.

This behaviour hurts children emotionally, which can result in cutting, anxiety, depression and other issues. Children should not be expected to choose sides. To hear one parent describe the other parent in negative ways

wounds the child.

People can be lousy spouses and great parents, and it is important to remember this through the red haze of hurt and pain. Remember also, that your children didn't choose any of this.

Your job is to fight to remain an active part of your children's lives, and this includes having time with your children to celebrate Christmas and other major holidays, as well as regular and frequent access.

Don't wait as time is short – propose a Christmas schedule via text or email and if she does not respond favourably in 48 hours, you need to see a family lawyer as quickly as possible. Delay may mean that you will forever remember that you never saw your children Christmas 2018. Don't let this happen to you!

Your friends at Shank Law.



Phone: 705-435-5055  
Email: [lynn@shanklawoffice.com](mailto:lynn@shanklawoffice.com)  
Web: [shanklawoffice.com](http://shanklawoffice.com)

WE SERVICE: ALLISTON • ANGUS • BETON • BASE BORDEN • COOKSTOWN • EVERETT  
• LORETTO • SCHOMBERG • TOTTENHAM • BRADFORD • THORNTON