

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN DURING SEPARATION

A separation is a challenging time for parents and children. Many children want their parents to stay together and resolve their conflicts. However, this is not always possible.

Even if parents go their separate ways, they remain jointly responsible for their child. Unless a different arrangement is requested, joint parental responsibility usually continues to remain in place after divorce.

The Mannheim Youth Welfare Office and Health Department will support you throughout the separation and divorce process with advice and assistance. We help you find solutions that focus on the well-being of your child.

Further information is available at:



City of Mannheim

Youth Welfare Office and Health Department
R1, 12 | 68161 Mannheim
www.mannheim.de

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Evgeny Atamanenko

CONTACT

We recommend making an appointment in advance so that we can set aside enough time for your request.

You can reach us:

Mon – Thu 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m

Region 01

Sandhofen, Schönau, Gartenstadt,
Luzenberg, Waldhof sowie Speckweg
east of the Hess. Straße und Sonnenschein
Speckweg 45-51, 68305 Mannheim
Tel.: 0621 293-3951, Fax: 0621 293-3945

Region 02

Neckarstadt-Ost, Neckarstadt-West,
Friesenheimer Insel
Holzbauerstraße 6-8, 68167 Mannheim
Tel.: 0621 293-9178, Fax: 0621 293-9168

Region 03

City center, Jungbusch, Oststadt,
Schwetzingenstadt, Lindenhof, Feudenheim,
Käfertal, Vogelstang, Straßenheim,
Wallstadt, Franklin
R1, 12, 68161 Mannheim
Tel.: 0621 293-3635, Fax: 0621 293-3733

Region 04

Almenhof, Neckarau, Niederfeld,
Casterfeld, Rheinau, Pfingstberg,
Hochstätt, Seckenheim, Friedrichsfeld,
Neuostheim, Neuhermsheim
Salzachstr. 10-12, 68199 Mannheim
Tel.: 0621 293-6835, Fax: 0621 293-6578

Integration Support

Kaiserring 10 – 16 , 68161 Mannheim
Tel.: 0621 293-6640

An acute danger to young
people can be reported
to us here:

Child Protection Agency

Emergency number: 0621 293-3700
Fax: 0621 293-3707

PARENTS
REMAIN PARENTS

MANNHEIM²



STADT MANNHEIM²

Jugendamt und
Gesundheitsamt

JOINT PARENTAL CARE – WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

After a separation, there are various models for how parents can arrange childcare and where their child will live. Which model is best for you can be discussed in a consultation with the Youth Welfare Office and Health Department.

The parent with whom the child is currently staying decides on everyday matters.

These include, for example:

- Organization of daily life
- Leisure activities
- Doctor's appointments
- Clothing, food, etc.

However, decisions that affect the child significantly in the long term must be made jointly by both parents.

These include, among other things:

- Home and whereabouts of the child
- School and religious education
- Consent to medical procedures
- Important financial matters

In acute emergencies, such as an accident, each parent can act immediately on their own.

If parents cannot agree on important matters, upon request the family court may transfer the decision-making authority to one parent.

RIGHT OF ACCESS – THE RIGHT TO BOTH PARENTS

Every child has the right to a positive relationship with both parents. It is important that the child feels they can continue to rely on both parents and that their desire to have contact with the other parent is supported.

There are various models for arranging custody (e.g., residence model, alternating model, nesting model) that can be tailored to the individual needs of the child and the family. The Youth Welfare Office and Health Department can advise you on which model is most suitable.

Parents are obliged to maintain contact with their child and to agree together on how contact will be arranged.

If no agreement can be reached, parents can seek advice from the youth welfare office or apply to the family court for a visitation order. The family court may restrict visitation rights if this is necessary for the welfare of the child.

In addition to the parents, other close relatives also have their own right of access if this contact is in the best interests of the child.

These include, for example:

- Brothers and sisters
- Grandparents
- Step-parents
- Foster parents

SOLE PARENTAL CUSTODY

Parental responsibility may be transferred in whole or in part to one parent alone. An application must be made to the family court for this.

The court will grant this request if:

- the other parent agrees, or
- it is to be expected that the termination of joint parental responsibility and the transfer of sole parental responsibility to the applicant(s) is in the best interests of the child.

If these conditions are not met, joint custody remains in place.

The Youth Welfare Office and Health Department advises parents on issues relating to parental care and supports them in finding solutions that are in the best interests of the child. The social services department of the youth welfare office will be involved in the court proceedings and will provide a professional assessment of the child's situation.

