

A RESOURCE FOR SEPARATED PARENTS
Helping children through divorce
& parenting through divorce



In this resource, we have carefully selected articles to help our professional network and their clients who are going through separation or divorce understand more about some family law concepts when children are involved. We value the expertise that our professional network provides in helping us get the best possible outcome for our mutual clients. It is for this reason that we have compiled these articles to help our professional network and the people they assist, to gain a better understanding of what needs to be considered during a separation or divorce where children are involved.

This resource is divided into two sections:

- What to know about care arrangements and child support for children*
- How to support your children and yourself through separation & divorce*

We hope you find this resource helpful. You are most welcome to share it with your clients as an initial reference point if they are experiencing separation or divorce.



What to know about care arrangements and child support for children

Parenting arrangements and the law

The Family Law Act does not reference parental rights when children are involved but rather considers what is in a child's best interests. The paramount consideration is to protect children and focus on the responsibilities that parents have. This article explains parenting arrangements and the legal framework which applies.

[Right click and open the article in a new tab here](#)

What is a Family Report? When is Family Report required?

A Family Report may be required following a separation to assist separating couples in reaching an agreement about the care arrangements for their children. It is a recommendation by an expert outlined in a report which is used to help determine care arrangements for children of parents who are separating. The process of getting a Family Report involves a family consultant, the parents, and the children of the separating couple.

[Right click and open the article in a new tab here](#)

Living overseas with children in Australia

If you have a client who lives in another country and has child support obligations but does not want to make any payments, arrangements can sometimes be made to collect the child support payment. This article covers the laws and policies that are in place regarding child support if a separated parent is living outside Australia.

[Right click and open the article in a new tab here](#)

Important considerations when relocating with children

Relocating with your children after going through separation or divorce is not as easy as others might think. This article helps anyone who is contemplating relocating with their children to learn of some important considerations before they take steps or pack their bags.

[Right click and open the article in a new tab here](#)

How child support works

Child support and parenting care arrangements are determined in different ways. Even if child support is paid this does not have a direct link to the time that parents may be able to spend with their child. There may be other reasons why that time could still be more limited. This article covers what separated parents can expect when it comes to how much they can spend time with their children even if they pay child support.

[Right click and open the article in a new tab here](#)

The advantages and disadvantages of child support agreements

Divorcing parents can enter into formalised agreements called Binding Child Support Agreements to ensure that child support arrangements including those which involve payments to third parties, like school fees, are adhered to. This article explores what a Binding Child Support Agreement is and the advantages and disadvantages of getting one.

[Right click and open the article in a new tab here](#)

How to help your children and yourself through separation and divorce

Books to help children cope with divorce

Books are helpful tools to help children cope with divorce. Hidden within the images and stories in these books there are messages that provide advice and coping mechanisms that will assist children to better understand their situation.

Right click and open the article in a new tab here

Helping children through divorce - 4 tips to help them through your separation and divorce

Children are as much affected as adults during a separation or divorce. But unlike adults, children might not understand the situation and might not know how to cope with a divorce in the family. This article covers some helpful tips to assist children through the separation process.

Right click and open the article in a new tab here

Surviving the festive season as a separated family

This article discusses four considerations that separated parents need to take into account to make it through the festive season. This will help parents to communicate arrangements early and hopefully to assist them to minimise disagreements.

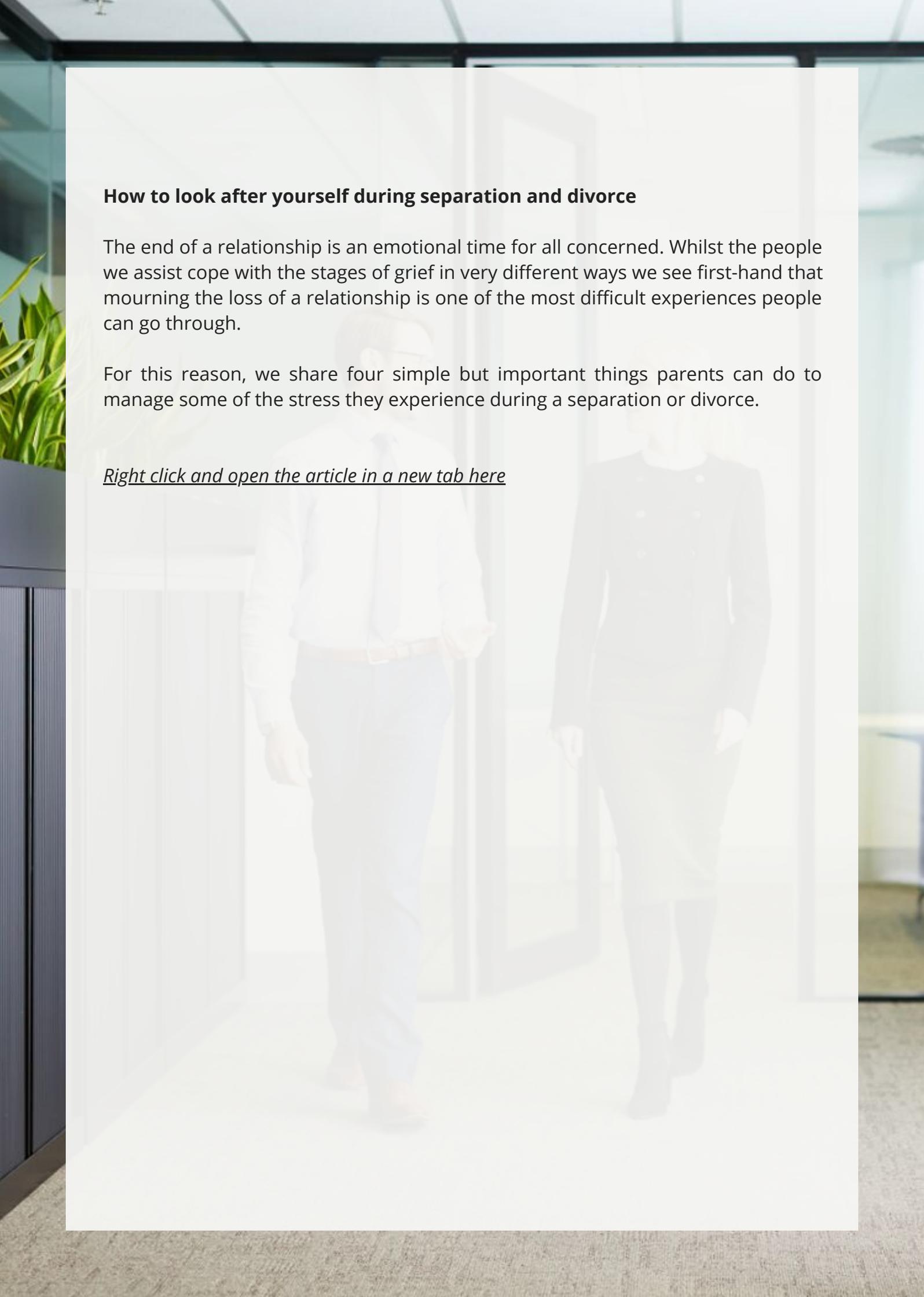
Right click and open the article in a new tab here

How to look after yourself during separation and divorce

The end of a relationship is an emotional time for all concerned. Whilst the people we assist cope with the stages of grief in very different ways we see first-hand that mourning the loss of a relationship is one of the most difficult experiences people can go through.

For this reason, we share four simple but important things parents can do to manage some of the stress they experience during a separation or divorce.

[Right click and open the article in a new tab here](#)



A final word from Tony Phillips & Fiona Caulley

The most difficult thing we have to do with clients who do not get early advice either prior to or shortly following a separation is to try to 'unscramble the egg' - when they have taken steps, unaware that they are in fact, adverse to their interests.

For some of our clients who have come to us, often some time after separation, many reflect upon their experience and say they wish they had spoken to us earlier. They wish they hadn't agreed to certain arrangements with their former partner and had they understood the consequences of those seemingly innocuous decisions, they never would have made them.

A family lawyer, like those on our team, can foresee the ways in which people can take steps that avoid putting themselves in a vulnerable position from the start. Importantly, conversations with us are always private, irrespective of whether your clients choose to engage us or not.

We are here to help our professional network and clients aware of their options regardless of where they are at in their decision-making process. An initial phone call with us is not a commitment to proceed, it is an opportunity to be informed before taking action.

It is always our client's decision as to whether they want to do something, or do nothing. It is always their decision to speed up or slow down. What is important is for them to be confident that they made decisions on an informed basis.

We hope you found this resource helpful.



Tony Phillips and Fiona Caulley
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