

Back to School: Custody Issues

Family and matrimonial attorney Barbara King, partner at Tully Rinckey PLLC, joined us tonight to discuss custody issues now that children are back to school. The new school year means new activities, new friends, and new problems with visitation schedules for parents who are separated or divorced.

Barbara pointed out that there are two main age groups where she sees most of the major problems: young children who are entering school for the first time and teenagers. For couples with children going into kindergarten, they have never had to deal with working school into their custody schedules before, and it can be hard at first. Teenagers, on the other hand, are beginning to develop their own lives and schedules, which makes it difficult to work in time for parent visits.

In addition to kids going back to school, I've noticed that Halloween has become a huge bone of contention with parents. The younger the children are, the more of a fight it becomes as to which parent gets to be with the child and take them trick-or-treating. While it's not always easy to split, Barbara and I both suggest that parents try to take turns with the years or work out some other plan rather than taking it to court. Do you really want the courts to micromanage your life that much?

While we do encourage that parents try to work out a custody or visitation agreement on their own, sometimes this isn't possible. By calling an attorney, they can help you figure out the best way to make sure both parties are satisfied and also help keep the best interest of the child or children in mind.

If you need help with drafting or modifying a custody agreement or have any questions, call Barbara King or one Tully Rinckey PLLC's other family law attorneys at 518-218-7100 or visit our website at www.tullylegal.com