

There are two sides to every family law story...



Travel over the holidays

Steve and Jane are each entitled to one-half of the winter break with their son according to their Parenting Plan. Steve wants to take the child out of school early to go to Louisiana to see his parents. Jane does not want their son to miss school and is unhappy that their son will be spending time with Steve's parents as they have never seen eye to eye.

Now what?

Andi's advice to Dad:

Dad should be sure to give the itinerary and contact information to Mom well in advance of his trip. Dad should also contact the teacher to let her know and to see if any homework can be made up or done before they leave. Dad should also be sensitive to Mom's concerns about the nature of her relationship with his parents (whether he agrees with Mom's perception is less important). Dad should make sure that no one makes any negative comments about Mom in their son's presence during this trip or otherwise.



Andi Lawrence



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Andi's advice to Mom:

Mom should consider the best interest of the child when determining whether to agree with Dad about this trip. Mom should remind Dad that he needs to take responsibility for any issues that the trip might create with the school. Regardless of the situation with Dad's family, Mom still has the right to communicate with their son per the terms of their Parenting Plan, and she should ask Dad to ensure that there is a cell phone available to their son for this purpose.

Here's what...

If Steve and Jane cannot agree on the specifics of this trip, either of them may bring the issue to the attention of the court. Assuming the child is at least an average student and the school work can be addressed, the court will likely approve Steve's plan for the trip. Jane's relationship with Steve's parents is unlikely to be a significant enough problem for the court to decline Steve's travel plans.

Andi and Andi always support resolution of family issues through open dialogue and amicable settlement.

If you have a family law question that you would like answered, email us at AndivsAndi@HallierLaw.com.



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