



International family  
separation

# Child custody and visiting rights across EU borders

## Put your child's welfare first

### Both parents are important for your child...

With an increasing number of people living in European Union countries other than their own, more international families are being formed. These are notably families whose members living in an EU country of which one or more family members are not nationals.

If you are an international couple with a child and are now separating, you will need to agree the custody arrangements for your child.



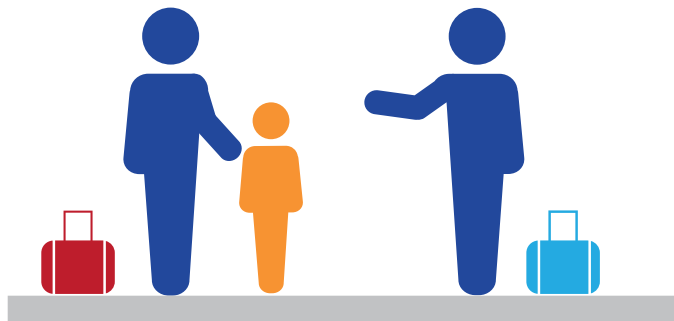
In cross-border situations, this may not always be easy as you may wish to return to your home country with your child. You and your partner will then need to reconsider your child's living arrangements, schooling, holidays, health and finances. You will also need to agree on visiting rights as your child should, in principle, maintain regular contact with both parents.



Children can be badly affected by the separation of their parents, but problems can be reduced if both parents work together to manage the break-up sensitively. Arrangements for care and welfare put in place by both parents are more likely to succeed and work in the long-term.

### Find a solution that is in the best interests of your child

→ Remember, your child should have a personal relationship and **regular contact with both parents**, unless a court decides otherwise.



→ **Try to negotiate a solution that is in the best interests of your child.** If you find it difficult to do this on your own, you can consult a specialist mediator or a lawyer to help you reach an agreement.



→ **Where parents cannot agree, the courts play a role.** In cross-border situations, EU rules determine which court is the right one to hear the case. This is usually the court in the country where your child habitually lives.

→ **EU rules enable the recognition and enforcement of court decisions** on custody and visiting rights within the EU so as to protect the relationship between the child and both parents.

***Put your child's welfare first.***



***Both parents are important for your child.***



Read more on EU rules concerning custody over a child or visiting rights, at

[e-justice.eu](http://e-justice.eu)

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