

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY & CHILD MAINTENANCE: KEY INFORMATION



This factsheet provides a clear overview of your rights and responsibilities as a DAD with Parental Responsibility (PR), particularly if you are on benefits and actively involved in your children's lives.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY (PR): WHAT IT MEANS

- ▶ You have the legal **right to be involved in decisions** about your children's education, healthcare, religion, and travel.
- ▶ PR does not change due to financial status, relationship breakdown, or criminal history.
- ▶ You can participate in **day-to-day decisions** and **long-term planning** for your children.

CONTACT WITH YOUR CHILDREN

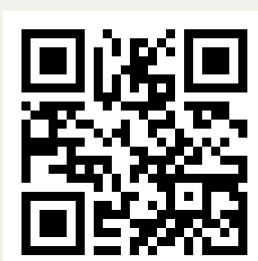
- ▶ You have **the right** to see your children and maintain a relationship with them, regardless of whether you pay child maintenance.
- ▶ If your children stay with you regularly (e.g. overnight stays or school drop-offs), this is recognised as **shared care**.
- ▶ Contact **should not be denied** due to maintenance disputes.

CHILD MAINTENANCE AND BENEFITS

- ▶ If you are on Universal Credit or similar benefits, the standard child maintenance payment is £7 per week (flat rate).
- ▶ If you have significant shared care (overnight stays, school runs), your obligation may be reduced or removed entirely.
- ▶ Private payment demands are not legally enforceable unless agreed and registered through CMS.

Remember First and foremost, you are their dad and that matters more than anything. No matter how rich or poor you are, or what circumstances you're in, what your child needs most is your **love** and **presence**. That's what truly lasts.

Other people's opinions don't matter.



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WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ✓ Keep records of contact e.g. overnight stays, school runs,
- ✓ Request a formal CMS assessment or review if your circumstances have changed.
- ✓ Consider family mediation if contact or co-parenting arrangements are disputed.
- ✓ Apply for a Child Arrangements Order if necessary to secure regular contact.