



Le Rocquier School

A Guide to Parental Responsibility

Parental Responsibility – The Definition

Parental Responsibility describes the overarching rights and responsibilities for a child under the Children Law 2002. Parental Responsibility (PR) is not required for everyday decisions but it does give rights over important issues such as which school your child attends, medical treatment administered and who has sight of personal information about your child.

It is important to establish who has PR for your child at the outset, as only those with PR will have the right to access personal information regarding your child. Therefore establishing PR can usually be established by looking at the birth certificate.

How do we know who has Parental Responsibility?

A mother always has PR (unless it has been removed by a Court). In the UK, Europe and most other countries, a father has PR if he is named on the birth certificate. If the child was born in Jersey, however, a father only has PR if he is named on the birth certificate AND was married to the mother at the time of birth OR has subsequently married her OR has had PR subsequently given to him by a Court. Sometimes a third party (such as a grandparent) may have been given PR by the Court.