

PARENTAL RIGHTS

It is now a legal requirement that for the children we look after, we know which of the parents have parental rights. The law operates as follows:-

- If a child's mother and father are married, *both* parents have parental rights, so if either parent wishes to restrict the access of the other parent, we need to see a solicitor's letter.
- For unmarried parents of children born before December 2003 – *Mother only* has parental rights unless the father has applied for them.
- For unmarried parents of children born after December 2003 – if father and mother went together to register the child's birth and are named on the birth certificate, then *both parents* have parental rights. If either parent wishes to restrict the access of the other parent, we need to see a solicitor's letter.
- For unmarried parents of children born after December 2003 – if mother only went to register the child's birth, *mother only* has parental rights unless the father has applied for them.

.....

I certify the following to be true

Mother has parental rights

Father has parental rights

Birth Certificate seen by _____

Signed.....