

## Parenting Relationships and Finances

Finances are a big part of any relationship, but when there are two parents who are no longer together and there are children involved, it is an even bigger issue. One parent usually has full custody and the other will most likely have visitation rights. Many times there is an agreement in place in regards to child support payments, but that doesn't mean that those agreements are followed all of the time.

This is where it can get tricky for everyone involved and the drama starts. The person who has full custody will expect child support on the agreed upon times and when they don't receive it they can become hostile towards the other parent. The hostility may be caused by the fact that they can't fully pay the bills without that money or it could be the simple fact of just not receiving the money. Every parent who is raising their child without the other parent around 24/7 feels obligated to make their child's life better. They usually feel guilty that they weren't able to make the relationship work for the sake of the child and this will lead them to wanting to provide their child with more things than usual. It can be difficult to do this without the extra money.

If the noncustodial parent has visitation, then they might not feel the need to pay child support since they have the child with them on occasion. They might feel that they spend enough money on them during those times and that anything else is not necessary.

If either parent feels hostile towards the other parent, the child will definitely know about it. The child will sense the tension during their parents' interactions with each other and they will hear the fighting as well. This may make the child feel like it is necessary to choose sides and they will not want to be with one of their parents. They may start to yell and act out and misbehave, because they don't know what else to do. They want to love both parents, but they feel like they can't without hurting the feelings of one or both parents. This can cause a lot of stress for any child and the child may not want to do anything with either parent. They may stop spending time with their friends and stop doing activities that they love.

It is definitely difficult to raise a child as a single parent and even more difficult to share the parenting role when you are no longer together. However, it is really important to work together in raising a child. There is a reason that custodial and child support agreements are done and that is because it is in the best interest of the

child. Parents need to realize that their life is no longer about them, but the child that they created together. There is always going to be some drama in relationships, but parents need to think about their child and not let it get out of control.

Parents have a responsibility to make sure their children get what they need to be happy and healthy.