

Rights and responsibilities of parents

Being a parent gives you certain rights and responsibilities towards your child.

Rights are what the law says you can get. Responsibilities are what the law says you have to do.

Rights

A parent usually has the **right** to:

- ▶ make important decisions for their child about things like health, education, and religion
- ▶ get important documents for their child, like a health card and social insurance number
- ▶ apply for government benefits like maternity or parental leave, and the Canada Child Benefit
- ▶ spend time with their child

Responsibilities

A parent has the **responsibility** to support their child financially even if they:

- ▶ do not live with their child
- ▶ do not see their child
- ▶ are not married to the other parent
- ▶ did not live with the other parent
- ▶ did not have an ongoing relationship with the other parent
- ▶ have other children from a new or previous relationship

Being a parent may also give your child a right to get some of your property if you die without a will.

If you and your child's other parent separate or divorce, you have to decide things like:

- ▶ who gets to make decisions for your child
- ▶ how much time your child spends with each parent
- ▶ who pays child support and what the amount is

You can find more information about **Family Law** at stepstojustice.ca.