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Private Case Management

From the time that an application is instituted until the case conference can be up to three months. This delay prevents being able to bring an interim motion for parenting, support or other matters for several months.

Getting proper and timely disclosure at an early stage after being retained can expedite an early resolution of some issues or at least get the case ready to begin settlement discussions.

If there is an issue of getting disclosure, waiting for a case conference then possibly bringing a

motion causes further delay and extra expense to the parties. Being able to get timely disclosure can assist in moving the matter to an earlier resolution.

To address these issues, I am introducing the option of entering into a med/arb agreement for case management.

Counsel will be able to use the mediator/arbitrator to deal with disclosure issues/interim motions/case conference/settlement conference. If the matter is not settled after a settlement conference the parties can elect to go

by

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back into the court system for trial or stay in the med/arb process. The advantages of using private case management would include:

1. Getting early disclosure. Issues of disclosure can often be dealt with by teleconference between counsel, either on an informal basis or by way of motion.
2. No delay in bringing interim motions for relief. These can be dealt with immediately. No waiting until after a case conference.
3. Motions can be scheduled to take place by teleconference, in writing or by appearance.
4. No wasting time waiting for your matter to be called. Motions are booked to fit counsel's schedule
5. Timelines for delivering materials, disclosure are most often done by way of a short teleconference with counsel.
5. Case conference may not require a personal attendance of counsel and/or clients, saving time and expense.
6. Using mediation to try to resolve matters at an early stage either on an interim or final basis.
7. Case management by one person allows familiarity with the case and the parties.

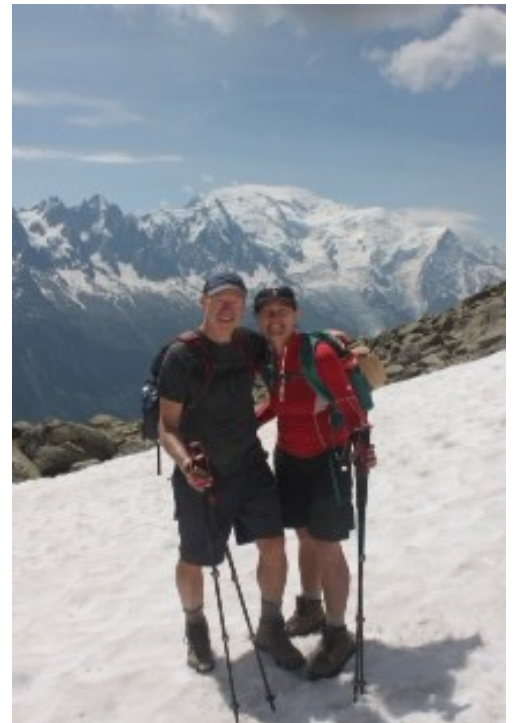
MOUNT BLANC TREK

If you are looking for a great hiking experience I recommend the Mount Blanc Trek. Ginny and I did the trek last June/July and it was one of best treks we have done.

The trek is 170km over 10 days and takes you around the Mount Blanc Massif through parts of France, Italy and Switzerland. The trek starts and ends in Chamonix France.

Our luggage was transported between hotels/inns along the way leaving us only a day pack to carry. There are two nights that we stayed in Refugios in the mountains that just add to the complete experience.

If you would like more information about our trip please contact me and I would be happy to give you contacts and any other information that might be helpful.



BLUEWATER CONTINUES

With Lene's appointment to the Bench I am fortunate to be able to continue the Bluewater tradition in London.

Lene brought a high level of professionalism and skill to her mediations / arbitrations. I hope to be able to continue to offer effective dispute resolution services to the same standard .

I look forward to working with counsel and parties to provide efficient, cost effective and timely resolutions to their family matters.

I also offer mediation and mediation/arbitration services in estate matters .

For more information please contact us at:

Tel: 519-660-6726 Toll-Free 1-855-210-6726

Malcolm Bennett at malcolm@bluewatermediation.com or Leigh Ann Eastwood, at leighann@bluewatermediation.com

TEACH YOUR CLIENTS HOW TO MAKE A BIFF® RESPONSE

BIFF® STANDS FOR BRIEF, INFORMATION, FRIENDLY AND FIRM.

Separated and divorced co-parents often have to communicate with one another about the children. Problems can arise when the texts and emails no longer centre upon parenting issues instead the communication becomes hostile, full of inaccuracies and name calling. Lawyers and mental health professionals are often faced with having to sift through their clients' texts and emails as their clients want to show them how bad the other person is behaving. By quickly glancing through the texts and emails, it is easy to see who can benefit from a lesson in sending BIFF® responses. Perhaps it is even your own client!

BIFF® responses is a method developed by Bill Eddy from the High Conflict Institute in California. See <http://www.biffresponse.com/> for more information.

In a nutshell:

- the emails should be kept short; no longer than 3-4 sentences and focus on the issue at hand.
- they should be informative and correct any inaccuracies from previous emails or communication.
- they should be friendly; no innuendos, no name calling, no bringing up past mistakes or events.
- they should be firm and be clear.

Here is an example.

Hi John,

Thanks for your recent email of Tuesday, January 5th offering to switch weekends to accommodate Billy's hockey tournament. As I mentioned in our telephone call, I am able to take him to the tournament as I am no longer working that weekend. So thanks for your offer to switch but it is not necessary. Will you be attending the tournament; it should be a good one?

Kindly, Sue

For New Ways for Families® counselling or coaching in BIFF® responses, call Louise Vandebosch (519 859 4057) or Tracey Lipp (519 619 4505). Louise and Tracey are Registered Social Workers who provide counselling and training in the NWFF® program in London and area.

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