



LOCKDOWN BAN RELAXED FOR SEPARATED PARENTS

One of the more contentious issues of South Africa's nationwide COVID-19 lockdown was the directive issued by the government which stated that children of separated parents were to stay with the parent that they were with at the beginning of the lockdown. Whilst such arrangement was challenged on an urgent basis by a number of aggrieved parents, they found no sympathy from the Courts, who ruled that the directive needed to be strictly followed. Thankfully, amended regulations have now been signed by Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu.

In terms of the new amended regulations, children can now move between co-holders of parental rights and responsibilities, provided that such parents have an existing court order or registered rights agreement or parental plan. The only exception to this is that children will not be permitted to move where *"... in the household to which the child is to move, there is no person who is known to have come into contact with, or is reasonably suspected to have come into contact with, a person known to have contracted, or reasonably expected to have contracted, Covid-19."*

When travelling to collect minor children in terms of the amended regulations, parents and caregivers must carry the original or certified copies of the Court Order or agreement under which they are exercising their rights.