



THE  
Harris Law Firm P.C.  
A stylized blue 'H' logo with horizontal lines above and below it.

“Colorado’s Divorce and Child Custody Attorneys”

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**TIPS FOR SINGLE PARENTS**

4. Set a timer. Trying to beat the clock can create a lot of energy for cleaning. Set a timer for a certain amount of time and race to beat the bell.
  5. Sock Puppet Dusters: Make sock puppets for dusting and start a contest to see whose puppet gets the dirtiest.
  6. Hide and Seek: Hide individually wrapped candies under cushions, on windowsills, and under pillows. Whoever finds the most gets a special treat!
  7. Children also enjoy anything that involves squirting water! Put window cleaner in a squirt gun, equip the child with some paper towel, and let them have fun cleaning windows, glass doors, and bathroom mirrors.
- When prizes are to be awarded for a job well done, make sure the reward is something your child is excited about. Consider prizes like a family trip to the park or a museum, or tickets they can save up and redeem for a family outing or like going to the zoo. Little ones might even like stickers or gold stars that they can display in their rooms. After you spend the day cleaning together, you can also reward the whole family by going out to dinner or to a movie!
- By turning cleaning chores into fun and games, your kids are off the couch, helping with housework, and having fun with the family.

- How to Get Your Children to Help Around the House*
- The secret to getting your kids to help you around the house is twofold:
- #1. Play while you work to make the household chores fun!
  - #2. Reward the kids for a job well done!
- Begin your family's "cleaning game" by holding a meeting to discuss the chores that need to be accomplished, and let the kids choose the tasks they will complete.
1. Musical Chores: Designate a project like dusting, mopping the floor, or picking up toys or clothing to each child and then start the music. At the end of each song, the children switch chores.
  2. Clean as a Team. Working together in pairs or a group can be motivating. It helps everybody stay on track to complete our tasks when we see others working too.
  3. Turn cleaning into a competition. Try having the kids shoot dirty laundry into the hamper as if they were shooting baskets in basketball.

**COLORADO SUPER LAWYERS FOR 2006** - Colorado lawyers who have been in practice for at least five years are nominated for this honor by other attorneys. Those who receive the highest number of points from each practice area are invited to serve on the selection panel. This year Rich Harris was selected as one of Colorado Super Lawyers for Family Law 2006.

**DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL - 40 UNDER 40** - For the past 10 years, The Denver Business Journal has included a special section called "40 Under 40" to recognize a diverse group of young, dynamic business leaders whose efforts in the office and in the community are shaping the future of Denver. Denver's 40 Under 40 award was based on 3 criteria of equal importance: Business Leadership, Recognition of Accomplishments, and Community Involvement. This year Rich Harris was chosen as one of Denver's 40 Under 40!

**2006 AWARDS**



THE  
**Harris Law Firm PC.**

*Helping Couples, Parents, Grandparents and, most importantly,  
Children deal with the effects of divorce and separation.*

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**QUOTE OF THE QUARTER**

“Things do not change; we change.”

— Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

**THE HARRIS LAW FIRM STAYS INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY**

The Harris Law Firm's strong commitment to the community is reflected in the many ways our attorneys donate their time. All employees of the firm are encouraged to volunteer because we strongly believe in the importance of contributing to local charitable organizations. As of June of 2006, our volunteer efforts at The Harris Law Firm have already begun!

• **RONALD McDONALD HOUSE**

This year the staff at the Harris Family Law Firm volunteered to provide and serve dinner at the Ronald McDonald House (RMH). RMH is a home-away-from-home for families with children undergoing life saving treatments at nearby Children's Hospitals. The organization provides an environment where families can be themselves and kids can share their experiences with others who are just like them. RMH offers these children and their families a compassionate and comfortable space at a nominal overnight fee. Parents find RMH a restful and comfortable place to feel safe, while their children can lead as normal a life as possible.

• **LAW LINE 9**

On specific nights throughout the year, the Denver Bar Association runs this legal program in conjunction with Channel 9 News. Attorneys from The Harris Law Firm have consistently donated their time and expertise to answer questions regarding family law from people who live in the state of Colorado. In April and May of this year, the attorneys at Harris Family Law Firm participated in Law Line 9 and provided legal advice to callers throughout the state who sought answers to their questions regarding family law.

• **COLORADO LEGAL SERVICES**

Lawyers from The Harris Law Firm also provide Pro Bono services through Colorado Legal Services. If clients are under CLS's required income level, the program will try to get clients involved in one of

their free or low cost programs. CLS can be reached at (303) 837-1313

• **THE DENVER BAR ASSOCIATION'S LEGAL NIGHT**

Attorneys at the Harris Law Firm participate in many of the events sponsored by The Denver Bar Association. The DBA sponsors, "Legal Night at the Center", a walk-in legal advice and referral clinic held every third Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at El Centro Bienestar San Jose (623 Fox St., Denver).

• **MI CASA**

Frequent volunteers at Mi Casa's "Legal Night", attorneys at The Harris Law Firm participate with The Colorado Lawyers Committee and the Denver Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, the organizations who sponsor this event. Mi Casa offers a free consultation for women to meet with an attorney to ask legal questions regarding family law.

• **HORSE PROTECTION LEAGUE**

The Horse Protection League is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing shelter, care, rehabilitation and adoption services for abused, neglected and abandoned horses. HPL relies primarily upon donations for the support, and believes in providing safety and humane treatment for these previously unwanted animals. The Harris Law Firm currently sponsors the Horse Protection League's (HPL) quarterly newsletter, and in July of this year our entire Firm and their families will also be working as barn hands on Colorado Cares Day! Our attorneys and staff will spend the day grooming horses and mucking stalls for this non-profit organization.

• **FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES (FBR)**

This Spring, attorneys and staff members of The Harris Law Firm contributed to the Food Bank of the Rockies (FBR), a local organization that reaches across Northern Colorado and Wyoming, providing food supplies to more than 900 hunger-relief programs. In 2005, FBR distributed more than 20.5 million pounds of food, enough to provide 43,000 meals each day to needy children, seniors and families. FBR is a member of America's Second Harvest - the Nation's Food Bank Network.

**FAMILY LAW TERM OF THE QUARTER**

**MARITAL PROPERTY** - property that is acquired by the spouses during the marriage. It typically does not include any property owned prior to marriage.

**MOVING OUT – SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS**

— by Rich Harris

In a divorce, every couple must, at some point, deal with the decision of who moves out and when. Moving out of the marital home is often a gut-wrenching, emotional decision.

As with many family law issues, there are some common misconceptions when it comes to dealing with the home. By understanding your rights, you may be able to avoid unnecessary conflict, and better protect yourself and your children:

1. There is no such thing as "abandonment" under Colorado law. Colorado is a "no fault" divorce state. So, if you do decide that it is best to move out, your spouse cannot, in most cases, use this against you in a child custody dispute. However, if you do choose to move out, you must still protect your relationship with the children by insisting on regular visits, phone contact and, where possible, e-mail contact.

2. The cliché about "possession being nine-tenths of the law" is misplaced when it comes to the home. In most cases, the spouse that remains in the home does not automatically have a greater legal claim to the home in the final property settlement. In Colorado, the court is required to divide all property in an "equitable" manner. This approach takes into account the overall division of assets, the care of younger children, and the financial resources of the parties. Possession of assets, as well as title of assets, is far, less important. In fact, in many cases, the court will order that the home be sold, and the proceeds divided in order to pay marital debts.

3. Moving out of the family home does not necessarily mean that the remaining party will be awarded custody of the children. In fact, there are many cases where the primary caretaker of the children decides that he or she must move out of the home with the children in order to protect the family from domestic violence. In fact, in a situation involving a history of domestic violence, or the threat of future domestic violence, you must always do what is necessary to protect yourself and your children – if that means fleeing from the marital home at the start of the case that is what you must do. The court can always award either the home, or your share of the equity in the home, to you later in the divorce.

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