



Postmedia News

WEST, KARDASHIAN DIVORCE BATTLE OVER KIDS' SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Source: Postmedia News

Date: 02/13/2022

Going through a very public and often messy divorce, Kayne West and Kim Kardashian can't seem to agree on much.

Including their children's use of social media.

According to US magazine, the ex-couple's difference of opinion on whether their four kids — North, 8, Saint, 6, Chicago, 4, and Psalm, 2 — should even have social media accounts is a sticking point. Kardashian filed for divorce in February 2021 after six years of marriage and the two have been battling ever since.

"My children ain't going to be on TikTok without my permission," West told Hollywood Unlocked's Jason Lee, according to US. His comment came two months after Kardashian created a joint TikTok account with North.

Divorced parents' disagreements over social media use by their tech-savvy children is a common issue since three-quarters of Canadians under 18 years old are regular social media users, according to a poll from August 2021 conducted by Media Technology Monitor. And because they are divorced, any issue becomes more complicated.

But according to Shulman & Partners LLP, a Toronto family law firm, for divorced parents a well-prepared parenting plan can help smooth over this issue and others.

"When clients with children come to see us, it usually means there is a disagreement with their co-parent that they cannot resolve on their own," said Alyssa Bach, associate lawyer at Shulman & Partners. "For issues like social media use by children, that is a parenting decision that may be addressed in a parenting plan. Some parents are able to deal with this on a flexible, evolving basis. When there is no agreement, then we have to assist in reaching a compromise between the parties.

"A parenting plan is a good tool for co-parents to stay focused on preserving the child's best interests. When we prepare parenting plans for clients, our goal is to address how issues or potential issues will be resolved."

The parenting plan for social media use put forward by Shulman & Partners includes:

- Educate your child about the importance of safeguarding their personal information;
- Form safe passwords, learn how to identify websites that are safe or risky to visit, and understand anything that goes online is accessible whether you like it or not.
- Maintain frequent, open and respectful communication with your children;
- Be observant for any behaviours in your children that are not positive and that you can attribute to their access to technology or social media.

The poll says 74% of Canadian kids seven to 17 have used social media in the last month, with girls more likely to use it than boys (80% vs. 68%). Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and Facebook are the most popular social media platforms and 58% of teens use two or more. TikTok is the most popular, with 77% of respondents visiting it at least once a day.