



## Law Offices of Andrew Guisbond

Law Offices of Andrew Guisbond are happy to announce that we are now offering *Limited Assistance Representation (LAR)* services, in addition to our full range of divorce and family law services.

*Limited Assistance Representation* occurs when an attorney represents or assists a client with part, but not all, of his or her legal matter instead of the standard full representation on an entire case. With LAR, litigants can engage an attorney for part of a case—a crucial event, like the case management conference or a motion to dismiss—without incurring the cost of full representation. This allows the attorney and client to enter into a detailed agreement that defines the attorney's, and litigant's areas of responsibility. Both Attorney Guisbond and Attorney Jacobi have been qualified as providers of LAR services.

Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy Thanksgiving -

Best wishes,

*Andrew S. Guisbond,  
Lic., MA and NH  
Christie G. Jacobi,  
Lic., MA and RI*

## LAR Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

To provide you with some context, here is a synopsis of the FAQ's provided by The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court, Probate and Family Court Department:

1. **How do I pay for LAR services?** As with all legal services, you and your attorney will negotiate whether and how much you will pay him or her.
2. **How do I know if I can use LAR?** LAR is available to anyone who has a matter pending or waiting to be filed in court who does not wish to represent him/herself but does not wish to hire an attorney to represent him/her throughout the entire case.
3. **How do I find a LAR certified lawyer who can represent me?** Attorneys must take a mandatory training to provide limited representation. A list of qualified attorneys may be available in the registry of probate and local bar associations.
4. **When can I use LAR?** You can use LAR whenever there is a matter pending or to be filed in court and you do not want to represent yourself but do not wish to hire an attorney to represent you throughout the entire case.
5. **What happens if I choose to represent myself in a case?** A Judge does not provide special assistance or treat a litigant differently because he/she chooses self- representation but is not an attorney. The Judge must remain impartial in hearing your case and cannot provide legal advice. If you choose to represent yourself for an entire case or part of that case, you are expected to understand the relevant law and procedure. In most circumstances, you will want to hire an attorney to assist you with at least a portion of your case.

## Five Tips for Getting Through the Holiday Season

*(originally published 2012)*

With the holidays right around the corner, this time of the year can be hard on families who have been through a break-up or divorce. Here are a few tips on getting through this time:

1. **Try to plan early.** Planning a holiday early and figuring out what everyone's schedule is may avoid overlap when the holiday comes around. When will your ex-spouse's parents be coming for the holiday? When will your siblings be over for dinner? Knowing the schedule ahead of time can help you and your ex plan where your children should be for each event so that they don't have to feel as though they are missing anything. If you are the child of divorced parents, talk to your siblings about what their plans are and then try to go to each parent's house together or split it up so neither parent feels left out. Alternating the holidays is always a great option for exes who find it less than easy to communicate.

2. **Host your own event.** Celebrate Hannukah, Christmas or the New Year at your house! Hosting the holiday in your own home and/or inviting your ex-spouse and his or her family can help make your children feel like they don't have to choose one parent over the other.
3. **Take advantage of the time alone.** While your child is at their other parent's home, spend that time wisely! Use these opportunities to shop for the holidays, plan a holiday meal, wrap gifts, spend time with a new spouse, or just relax!
4. **Communicate.** Communicate with your ex about who is getting what gifts for your children. Your children will feel much more excited about getting a One Direction doll from Mom and a Disney Princess tent from Dad than if you both buy your child a Furby!
5. **Have fun!** Remember that the holidays are a time to enjoy your friends and family and to be thankful for what you've got!

## Fall/Winter 2015 News Digest

Here are links to the most interesting pieces we've come across recently:

- [Why post-divorce finances are trickier than you think](#)
- [Should custodial parents have to account for child support spending?](#)
- [Men requesting alimony is becoming increasingly common](#)
- [Supreme Court decision allows women to reopen cases](#)
- [Why the Sims have lower divorce rate than we do](#)
- [Why do we divorce?](#)

## We'd love to hear from you

Please let us know what you think of the recent changes we've made to our [website](#). Keep your eyes open for our new blog - announcement coming soon. If you haven't already, please join our online community! Click the link below and "like" us to get access to news and updates relating to divorce, custody and family law, and our firm.

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Follow us on **twitter**

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purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. Seek competent legal counsel for advice on any legal matter.

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