

Foreword

office of the **CHIEF RABBI**

Foreword from the Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks

I have been aware for a number of years now of the work JUMP (Jewish Unity for Multiple Parenting) has undertaken in assisting Jewish parents cope with the huge difficulties of positively maintaining their ongoing relationships with their children following separation and divorce. As we know, Jewish parents are not immune to these problems and, indeed, may face a number of specific challenges linked to their Jewish values and practices.

I commend JUMP in producing this Jewish Parenting Plans document which, during its development, was circulated widely for input and advice to many Rabbonim and Jewish experts in the fields of childcare, law, and other social community responsibilities.

I know JUMP members believe that by sharing the information included in this document, which is based on their own often painful experiences and efforts to find solutions, that it will assist other Jewish parents avoid some of the pitfalls they had to go through. JUMP's aim is that Jewish parents will take time to consider what is really in the best interests of their children and find a way for their children to be able to spend valuable time with each of them and their extended families and friends.

In addition to Shabbat, Jewish festivals and holy days, it is important for children to be able to experience life cycle events (both their own and those of relatives), and this will be facilitated by exposure to the families and social networks of both parents. It is therefore crucial that both parents are able to spend time with their children and share these experiences and occasions with them and input into their growth and development.

I strongly believe that this document will be of considerable value to Jewish parents and Jewish community experts involved in supporting children experiencing the difficulties of their parents' separation and divorce.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Sacks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks