

## 28% of family travel insurance policies do not cover children if they live with an ex

A report by independent financial research company Defaqto calls into question whether insurance policy definitions of 'family' are up to date. Defaqto urges parents to check the detail of their travel insurance policies this summer to ensure they have adequate cover for their children.

Brian Brown, author of the report and Head of Research at Defaqto said: "Many travel insurers will insure your children and step-children as long as they live with you. But if you take children on holiday with you and they normally live with an ex-partner they might not be covered. Insurers only consider them as family if they permanently live at your address."

There are 423 annual travel insurance policies available and the table shows the proportion of them that provide cover for children in the specified circumstances:

	% of annual travel insurance policies providing cover	
	Yes	No
Are dependant children who are not normally resident with the main policyholder covered?	72.1%	27.9%
Are step children who live with the main policyholder covered?	99.5%	0.5%
Are step children who do <b>not</b> live with the main policyholder covered?	72.1%	27.9%
Are children who travel independently covered?	51.5%	48.5%

Mr Brown continued: "It's imperative that parents check the detail of their travel insurance policies to ensure that they have the cover they need before travelling. In particular, couples who are not married, or have children from a previous relationship need to make sure that children are covered when travelling with them."

Defaqto currently provides Star Ratings for annual, gap year, long stay and single trip travel insurance policies. Consumers can use Defaqto Star Ratings as a guide to help them choose the overall level of features and benefits offered by travel insurance policies. Policies offering a basic level of features and benefits would be rated as 1 Star and those with the most comprehensive range of benefits a 4 or a 5 Star. [www.defaqto.com/stars](http://www.defaqto.com/stars)

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### Notes to Editors:

About Brian Brown, Head of Insight

Brian joined Defaqto in November 1998 from RSA where for five years he was their market intelligence manager. Prior to that he spent eight years working for both Royal Insurance and British Gas as an IT technical consultant. Brian heads up Defaqto's Research Centre, comprising a large team that collect and interpret product information, alongside a group of senior consultants who use that information to provide analysis and consultancy services across the financial services market including the pensions, investment, protection, general insurance and banking arenas.

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**About Defaqto:** [www.defaqto.com](http://www.defaqto.com)

Defaqto is an independent financial research company specialising in rating, comparing and analysing financial products.

Since 1994, Defaqto has built the largest, whole of market, financial product database and become one of the leading providers of financial product data in the UK. We now cover over 30,000 products across banking, life, pensions, investments and general insurance.

Our experts validate and analyse the data to provide insight and consultancy to all layers of the financial services sector including IFAs, mortgage and general insurance brokers, providers, web aggregators and the public sector.

Our products and services include the following:

### **Defaqto Star Ratings**

Our Star Ratings reflect the quality of a financial product and help to identify the range of features and benefits in each one. We review and assess every financial product across various categories and award a Star Rating from 1 to 5. The ratings are aimed at helping consumers and advisers decide which product suits their specific needs. Providers also use the ratings to ensure they offer products to meet differing consumer demands.

### **Aequos Online**

An extensive, independent, financial product analysis and comparison database available in the UK. The database contains feature, rate and fees information on more than 30,000 products from nearly 2,000 providers. Our customers include leading insurance and assurance companies, banks and building societies and investment organisations.

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An integrated system for independent financial advisers (IFAs) and insurance brokers. The system makes the reporting, analysis, recommendation and review process easy, delivering the perfect product to meet client needs.

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An interactive, comparison tool enabling consumers to easily compare product features against each other on a host of key features, using a simple 'traffic light' system.

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