

Jolie cited irreconcilable differences with Pitt in her Sept. 19 divorce filing.

Brad's UNHAPPY HOLIDAY

Pitt settled for a Friendsgiving (and may go solo for Christmas) as his six kids remain with ex Angelina Jolie BY ERIC ANDERSSON



Brad Pitt did *not* go home for the holidays. For the *Allied* star's first Thanksgiving since Angelina Jolie, his partner of 12 years and wife of two, filed for divorce, his parents "insisted he be with them," says a Pitt insider. But instead of breaking bread in Springfield, Missouri, the "sad and frustrated" actor, says a Pitt pal, spent the day in a private villa with a close friend at the luxurious Amanvara resort in Turks and Caicos.

The most wonderful time of the year? Not for Pitt. Both the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and the FBI have closed their inquiries into a September incident in which Pitt, 52, allegedly got physical with one of his kids aboard a private plane. Despite that, Jolie continues to keep her ex from Maddox, 15, Pax, 13, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, 10, and 8-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne, who reside with the *Maleficent* star, 41. "Everything is on her terms," claims the Pitt source. "It has been a difficult time for Brad." His days may only get harder. A Jolie insider insists the children, who are in therapy as per DCFS recommendations, decide when they see Papa Pitt — and Christmas is still up in the air. Says the source, "That will be discussed with the therapist as the holiday gets closer."

▶ SLOW GOING

November 24 at the actress' place in L.A. meant

"a nice family dinner," says the Jolie source. "It was quiet." The guest list was kid-approved too. Continues the source, "The children did not request to be with Brad on Thanksgiving." The Pitt friend counters that the decision is Jolie's alone: "Angie could have had him there if she wanted."

Despite spending that day apart from their dad, the kids *have* been warming up to the man who cheered them on at soccer games and planned family movie nights. In the 10 weeks since the split, Pitt has had just a handful of awkward, supervised visits. (Sources disagree on whether there have been more than three.) "They are trying to reconnect," says the Jolie source. "The visits have gone better."

The encouraging signs have helped Pitt remain patient. "Brad is giving the kids time. He's focused on whatever is best for their well-being," says the friend. To that end, Pitt, who filed for joint physical custody, isn't pushing for a court hearing on the matter at the moment. "At this point, the kids wouldn't want to live with him, and they are of the age when their opinions matter," says the Jolie source. But L.A.-based family attorney Alex Grager notes now that Pitt is in the clear, he's entitled to see them more. "The law says the best thing for children is to have access to both parents."

For his part, Pitt can't wait for more face time. "He loves his kids," the friend says. "It's very hard to not be with them." **US**

The pair took (from left) Pax, Zahara, Knox, Shiloh and Maddox to her *Maleficent* premiere in 2014.



The villa has its own pool and private gym.

What Their Christmas Looked Like in 2015

» The Jolie-Pitt clan had a very merry Christmas all together in 2015. Nine months before Pitt and Jolie separated, they spent the holidays in Phuket, Thailand, with their six kids and Jolie's brother, James Haven. The group bunked in a 10-bedroom villa at Amanpuri beach resort (price: \$18,000 a night!), equipped with its own staff of eight. The active clan, however, didn't stay inside. According to a source, they played mini golf, shopped at a local mall, toured a Hindu temple (where Jolie prayed) and hit the beach. Water sports led to the trip's sole hiccup: Says the source, "Pax broke his leg while jet-skiing!"

FROM LEFT: ERIC CHARBONNEAU/INVISION FOR TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX/AP IMAGES; SOLARPIX / PHOTOS; CHARLEY GALLAGHER/GETTY IMAGES FOR DISNEY (INSET); SP LASH/AMANPURIAMAN.COM