

Family Separation Services

Family Dispute Resolution

Family Dispute Resolution

A process where families can discuss issues about their children in the presence of a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. We assist families to develop arrangements in the best interests of the children, parents and families work to improve their communication and reduce conflict. In order to proceed, we need the contact details of the other parent.

Does everyone have to attempt Family Dispute Resolution?

People are required to make a 'genuine effort' to resolve their disputes out of court, before they make an application to the Family Court. The amendment to the Family Law Act reflect the importance of putting children's needs first and identifying any family violence and risk to a child's safety.

There are a number of reasons people are exempt from attending Family Dispute Resolution

Information available by phoning Family Relationships Advice Line on 1800 050 321 or Family Relationships website familyrelationships.gov.au

The Family Dispute Resolution process

- Intake and Assessment appointment
- Children's First Group attendance
- Pre-Family Dispute Resolution appointment
- Family Dispute Resolution joint session

There is also the possibility of Child Inclusive Practice, if this is deemed appropriate.

Intake and Assessment appointment (individual session with a Parenting Coordinator)

The appointment helps us gather information to assess the suitability for Family Dispute Resolution.

- **Intake and Assessment appointment attendance** - You are able to contact a Family Support Officer 3 weeks after the appointment to determine the response to the invite letter sent to the other parent/party
- **No response to the invite letter** - The Parenting Coordinator discusses options with you, which may include a Certificate 60i to go to the Family Court
- **Other parent/party respond** - They attend an Intake and Assessment appointment and Children's First Group

When both parents complete their Intake and Assessment appointment, the Parenting Coordinator present your case at a case management meeting where it is assessed for Family Dispute Resolution and the outcome is advised. If suitable, a Pre-Family Dispute Resolution appointment is made for each parent to assess the case further. If deemed unsuitable, we provide other options - Certificate 60i to go to the Family Court or referral to other more suitable services.

What happens in each session?

Children's First Group - An information session (with no former partners in the group) to discuss ways to support your children post-separation.

Pre-Family Dispute Resolution - An individual appointment to discuss and negotiate any issues regarding your children, this includes ways to improve communication, reduce conflict and practical preparation for a joint Family Dispute Resolution session. The safety of all participants is a priority to discuss.

Children appointments - Anglicare WA's Family Separation Services value the experiences and needs of children, we work with families to ensure children's best interests are considered. The Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner may request children attend an appointment with a Child Inclusive Practitioner.

Family Dispute Resolution Session - A joint appointment allows parents and family members to discuss the children's needs and interests to work towards more effective ways to co-parent.

Parenting Plans

The plan outlines the agreements reached by the parents in Family Dispute Resolution.

When do we issue a Certificate?

The Family Court does not hear applications unless they are filed with a Certificate or Exemption. Information available by phoning Family Relationships Advice Line on 1800 050 321 or Family Relationships website familyrelationships.gov.au

Can children attend the appointments?

No, it is inappropriate for children to attend parents' appointments and we are unable to offer childminding facilities.

What are the fees for your service?

Please refer to the website anglicarewa.org.au/frc for an updated fee schedule.

Contact us

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