



# Family Relationships Online

[www.familyrelationships.gov.au](http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au)

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Family Pathways Branch



# Family Relationships Online

- Who is it for?
- What's on it?
- New developments
- What does the future hold?



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## Welcome

Family Relationships Online provides all families (whether together or separated) with access to information about family relationship issues, ranging from building better relationships to dispute resolution.

It also allows families to find out about a range of services that can assist them to manage relationship issues, including agreeing on appropriate arrangements for children after parents separate. This site is updated from time to time with new information.



## Family Relationship Information

- [For Children](#)
- [For Teenagers](#)
- [For Parents](#)
- [For Couples](#)
- [For Grandparents](#)
- [For Service Providers](#)
- [Download or order brochures and other publications](#)



## Services To Support Families

### Family Relationship Services

There is a wide range of services available to help families to build better relationships or to help deal with separation.

- [More information about Family Relationship Services](#)
- [Search for a Family Relationship Service near you](#)

### Family Relationship Centres

Family Relationship Centres are a source of information and confidential advice for families at all stages in their life.

- [More information about Family Relationship Centres or to view a Centre's web page](#)
- [Search for a Family Relationship Centre near you](#)

### Family Relationship Advice Line - Freecall <sup>TM</sup> 1800 050 321

The Family Relationship Advice Line is a national telephone service established to assist families affected by relationship or separation issues.

- [More information about the Family Relationship Advice Line](#)

## What's New

### New Commonwealth law for separating de facto couples

New laws for the division of property for people in de facto relationships that break down have been passed by the Commonwealth Parliament.

- [Property division when de facto relationships break down fact sheet](#)

### Family Dispute Resolution

From 1 July 2008 changes to the family law system make Family Dispute Resolution a requirement before you can apply to a court for a Parenting Order.

- [More information about Family Dispute Resolution](#)
- [Find a Registered Family Dispute Resolution Provider](#)



## Who is it for?

- Australian public
- Family Relationship Centres
- Family Relationship Advice Line
- Lawyers and those working within the Family Law sector
- Other family relationship service providers



## What's in FRO?

- Information about:
  - Changes to the family law system
  - Relationships & separation issues
  - Services available to assist families
- Web presence for the Family Relationship Centres, the Family Relationship Advice Line and the Family Pathways Network



## Family Relationship Information

- ▶ For Children
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## Services for Families

- ▶ Family Relationship Advice Line **1800 050 321**
- ▶ Family Relationship Services
- ▶ Family Relationship Centres
- ▶ Search
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## Family Dispute Resolution

- [What is family dispute resolution?](#)
- [Is family dispute resolution compulsory?](#)
- [What are the exceptions to the requirement to attend family dispute resolution?](#)
- [What is a 'registered' family dispute resolution provider?](#)
- [Why should I use a registered family dispute resolution provider?](#)
- [How do I find a registered family dispute resolution provider?](#)
- [What information will a family dispute resolution practitioner provide me with?](#)
- [What happens in family dispute resolution?](#)
- [Are things said at family dispute resolution confidential and can they be used in court?](#)
- [What if you are feeling unsafe?](#)
- [What happens to any agreement reached in family dispute resolution?](#)
- [What if no agreement is reached?](#)
- [What if I don't attend or make a genuine effort?](#)
- [What will it cost?](#)

### What is family dispute resolution?

Family dispute resolution is the legal name for services such as mediation and conciliation that help people affected by separation and divorce to sort out their disputes with each other. You may have reached a point where you can't agree on issues concerning your property, children, or money. You may not be able to talk to each other at all.

Family dispute resolution can help you sort out these issues without going to court. If you can resolve your differences you'll save yourself time, money and a whole lot of stress.

Family dispute resolution can be provided by a range of individuals and organisations, such as Family Relationship Centres, community organisations, and legal aid commissions; and individuals such as lawyers, social workers or psychologists. If you are in a remote locality, there is also the option of accessing family dispute resolution via telephone. All family dispute resolution providers must be registered and must meet appropriate standards of training, experience and suitability.



# Family Relationship Services

- There is a wide range of services on FRO to help families to build better relationships or to help deal with separation including:
  - Family Relationship Centres
  - Family Relationship Advice Line
  - Family Dispute Resolution
  - Children's Contact Services
  - Parenting Orders Program
  - Post Separation Cooperative Parenting Services
  - Supporting Children After Separation Program
  - Counselling (includes family therapy)
  - Other Family Relationship Services
  - Family Violence Prevention



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Search

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## Services for Families

- ▶ [Family Relationship Advice Line \*\*1800 050 321\*\*](#)
- ▶ [Family Relationship Services](#)
- ▶ [Family Relationship Centres](#)

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## Canberra Family Relationship Centre

The Canberra Family Relationship Centre is run by Relationships Australia Canberra and Region, Centacare and Marymead. It is the first point of call for families either going through separation or seeking assistance to strengthen relationships.

Our centre is staffed with experienced, qualified professionals who are able to provide high quality, impartial and confidential services.

The Canberra Family Relationship Centre will provide families - at any stage in a relationship - with information and referrals to a range of services that can assist in strengthening family relationships and how parents and extended family members can strengthen communication while remaining child focused at all times.

We can assist people with negotiating their way through separation or divorce and also support couples having difficulties in their relationships and assists families to make their relationships stronger.

The Centre makes it easier for families to negotiate their way through the pathways while remaining child focused during times of separation, divorce and other family issues as they arise.

The Centre offers:

- information and referral
- one-on-one assessment with a clinical practitioner
- family dispute resolution
- early intervention programs and workshops
- child inclusive practice
- regional outreach support from Cooma and the Canberra office
- comprehensive resource library
- community development worker and,
- friendly support, advice and intervention.

People in the Cooma region can contact the Centre's Cooma office on (02) 6452 7511.

*Attorney-General's Department Disclaimer- The information on this page has been provided by this Family Relationship Centre.*





## For Lawyers pages

- Overview
- Online Legal Resources
- Referral services for clients
- Publications and Brochures



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## Services for Families

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## For Lawyers - Overview

The Family Relationships Online Legal Resource has been established to assist courts, lawyers and other legal stakeholders to find resources and information to assist clients that are either separated or separating. The Resource contains information on services that you can refer clients to and information that can be downloaded and provided directly by you to clients.

There are many [Referral services](#) that you can locate and refer your clients to including:

- [Family Relationship Centres](#)
- [Family Relationship Advice Line](#)
- [Family Dispute Resolution](#)
- [Children's Contact Services](#)
- [Parenting Orders Program](#)
- [Post Separation Cooperative Parenting Service](#)
- [Supporting Children after Separation Program](#)
- [Counselling \(includes family therapy\)](#)
- [Other Family Relationship Services](#)
- [Family Violence Prevention](#)

[Family relationship brochures and publications](#) that may enhance your clients understanding of the referral services are available to download.

[Family Pathway Networks](#) is a coordinated network for professionals operating within the Family Law system. The Networks assist member organisations and their staff in making more collaborative referrals and enhancing their understanding of the services for families offered by other Network members. There are currently 22 Family Pathways Networks across Australia.

The [Online Legal Resources](#) are links to websites that may be useful to lawyers and legal professionals including:

- [Legal Resources](#)
- [Courts](#)
- [Domestic Violence](#)
- [Family Relationship Sector](#)

### For Lawyers

- [Overview](#)
- [Referral services for clients](#)
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## Services for Families

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## For Lawyers - Online Legal Resources

This page provides links to other websites within the family relationship sector for clients of legal professionals.

- [Legal Resources](#)
- [Courts](#)
- [Domestic Violence](#)
- [Family Relationship Sector](#)
- [Research and Reference Materials](#)

## Legal Resources

- [Attorney-General's Department](#)
- [Family Law Council](#)
- [Law Council of Australia - Family Law section](#)
- [Legal Aid Commissions](#)
- [National Association of Community Legal Centres](#)
- [National Alternative Dispute Resolution Council](#)

## Courts

- [Family Court of Australia](#)
- [Federal Magistrates Court](#)
- [Family Court of Western Australia](#)
- [Queensland Courts](#)
- [SA Courts](#)
- [Tasmanian Courts](#)
- [Victorian Courts](#)
- [WA Courts](#)

## Domestic Violence

### For Lawyers

- [Overview](#)
- [Referral services for clients](#)
- [Online Legal Resources](#)
- [Brochures and Publications](#)



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## For Lawyers - Referral services for clients

This page provides information on services that separated or separating clients may be referred to.

- [Family Relationship Centres](#)
- [Family Relationship Advice Line](#)
- [Family Dispute Resolution](#)
- [Children's Contact Services](#)
- [Parenting Orders Program](#)
- [Post Separation Cooperative Parenting Services](#)
- [Supporting Children After Separation Program](#)
- [Counselling \(includes family therapy\)](#)
- [Other Family Relationship Services](#)
- [Family Violence Prevention](#)

## Family Relationship Centres

Family Relationship Centres provide information for people dealing with separation. They provide individual sessions, group information sessions, seminars and referrals to other services. Joint sessions are available for up to three hours free of charge. Additional sessions may incur fees, depending on parents' financial circumstances. Lawyers cannot participate with their clients at Centre sessions but may provide advice to clients outside the Centre.

Find [Family Relationship Centres](#)

## Family Relationship Advice Line - 1800 050 321

The Family Relationship Advice Line is a national telephone service established to assist families affected by relationship or separation issues. The Advice Line provides information on family relationship issues and advice on parenting arrangements after separation. It can also refer callers to local services that can provide assistance. The Family Relationship Advice Line (1800 050 321) is available from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday, and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday (local time), except national public holidays.

## Family Dispute Resolution

Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) can help parents sort out a range of issues relating to property, money and children.

From 1 July 2008, all individuals wanting to apply to a court for a parenting order will need to first attend FDR, and obtain a certificate from a registered family

### For Lawyers

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- [Referral services for clients](#)
- [Online Legal Resources](#)
- [Brochures and Publications](#)



## Family Pathways Network

- Information on what the network is and who it is for.
- Contact Details for the 22 Family Pathways Networks across Australia
- Expanding the online services provided after consultation later this year.



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## Family Pathways Network

The Family Pathways Network is a coordinated network for professionals operating within the Family Law system.

There are currently 22 Family Pathways Networks across Australia.

- [Family Pathways Network Contacts \[DOC 96KB\]](#)
- [Family Pathways Network Contacts \[PDF 68KB\]](#)

The Networks assist member organisations and their staff in making more collaborative referrals and enhancing their understanding of the services for families offered by other Network members.

The Networks hold regular meetings, conferences, forums and training days.

Various products have been developed by the Networks including:

- calendars of events,
- an electronic news bulletin,
- card inserts listing local services and
- training materials.

Regular contact among members keep organisations connected, up to date with the services each is providing and recent developments, such as changes to the way services are provided.

Network members come from a range of organisations that provide services for separating families, including:

- practitioners such as counsellors,
- mediators,
- legal practitioners specialising in family law,
- representatives from Family Law Registries,
- the Child Support Agency and
- Centrelink.

Network members may include service providers traditionally not seen as part of the Family Law system such as drug and alcohol, mental health and domestic violence practitioners.



## FRO the future..

- Continuous improvement program
  - Enhanced navigation and search functionality on FRO
  - Further consultation with stakeholders
  - Consolidation of information
  - Family Pathways Network pages



## Further Information

- [www.familyrelationships.gov.au](http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au)
- Questions?