



## Family law—Parenting arrangements for children after separation

This factsheet explains key parenting concepts in Australian family law. The information provided in this fact sheet is not legal advice. If you require legal advice and support services about a family law matter please see the **Family Law Services and Support Fact Sheet** on the Attorney-General's Department's website.

### KEY TERMS

**Parental responsibility** means all the duties, powers, responsibilities and authority that parents have in relation to their child. Each parent of a child under 18 has parental responsibility. Only a court order can change or remove parental responsibility.

**Parenting arrangements** are arrangements about how parents will care for children after separation. These can be informal arrangements or formal agreements such as a **parenting plan** or a **parenting order**.

A **parenting plan** is a written record of an agreement between the parents about the care of the children that is also signed and dated. It cannot be enforced by a court, but a court may consider the plan when making parenting orders.

A **parenting order** is a court order that is legally enforceable. Parents who are able to agree parenting arrangements and want to make them legally binding can apply to the court for consent orders. Parenting orders will usually address who will make major long-term decisions for the child and how much time a child spends with each parent.

Use the **Law Term Finder** for online help with legal terms: [lawtermfinder.mq.edu.au](http://lawtermfinder.mq.edu.au).

### THE LAW IN AUSTRALIA

The *Family Law Act 1975* (Family Law Act) is the law in Australia for resolving arrangements for children and property following a relationship breakdown. The Family Law Act identifies the different types of parenting arrangements that parents can enter into when separated, and what parents should consider when deciding parenting arrangements for their children.

In Western Australia, the Family Law Act only applies to children of married or previously married parents. A different law—the *Family Court Act 1997 (WA)*—applies for children's matters where the child's parents were never married to each other.

Separating couples are encouraged to resolve issues themselves without going to court, where it is safe to do so. The Family Law Act is gender neutral and focuses on the **rights and needs of children** and the **responsibilities that each parent** has towards their children, rather than on parental rights.

**Child protection** is mainly the responsibility of state and territory governments. Relevant child welfare and law enforcement agencies investigate the safety and wellbeing of a child. Under the Family Law Act, it is mandatory for the family law courts to report suspected or alleged child abuse to state and territory child welfare authorities. If you have concerns about a child's safety and wellbeing see the **Family Relationships Online website** for information on what to do: [familyrelationships.gov.au/parenting/childrens-safety](http://familyrelationships.gov.au/parenting/childrens-safety).

**Child support** is an amount of money paid between separated parents to help with the cost of raising their children. In some situations, child support may be paid by one or both parents to another person who is looking after the children, such as a grandparent, legal guardian or other family member. Services Australia is responsible for the Child Support Scheme and can help you manage and apply for child support. For more information see the **Services Australia website**: [servicesaustralia.gov.au/separated-parents](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/separated-parents).

# BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

**The 'best interests of the child' is the most important thing to think about**

when making parenting arrangements. This includes the need to keep children safe from harm, meeting the child's developmental needs, and the benefit to the child of having a relationship with each of their parents and other people significant to them.

## How do I decide the best parenting arrangements for my child?

When making a parenting plan or seeking parenting orders, parents should consider issues such as:

- the safety of the child
- the age of the child
- who is best placed to provide day-to-day care
- educational needs
- special needs the child may have e.g. medical and schooling
- practical considerations e.g. around accommodation, transport and expenses
- cultural needs of the child, especially where the child is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- the child's own views or opinions.

Parents may also wish to consider how to include flexibility in the plan – particularly as children get older, and their interests and needs change. Parenting arrangements may need to change and adapt over time.



# DO I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?

No. Where it is safe to do so, separating couples are encouraged to resolve issues themselves without going to court. This is more likely to save time, money and stress. Parents are encouraged to seek the support of family relationship services to help resolve family law issues. The assistance of family relationship services and family dispute resolution may be sought at any stage, including prior to separation, after separation, and before, during or after court proceedings and court orders.

Parenting agreements can be informal, such as an oral agreement, or a formal written parenting plan. It is useful to have a signed and dated written record of an agreement between parents about the care of the child. There is no required format for a parenting plan and making a parenting plan is cheaper and easier than going to a family law court. However, it is not a legally enforceable agreement.

## How do I get a legally enforceable agreement?

If you have agreed parenting arrangements but want them to be legally enforceable, you can apply to the court for **consent orders**. These are parenting orders made by the court with the consent of all the parties. This means you do not have to go to trial.

## What if we don't agree about parenting arrangements?

When separating parents are not able to agree to parenting arrangements between themselves, before they can apply to a court to hear their matter, they are required to make a genuine effort at family dispute resolution, unless an exception applies. Exceptions include where there are risks due to the presence of family violence that cannot be safely managed, or in circumstances of child abuse or urgency.

The main family law courts are the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia or, for those in Western Australia – the Family Court of Western Australia.



## HELP WITH PARENTING PLANS

**amica** is a simple, affordable and quick online tool that can assist parents to develop a parenting agreement or parenting plan. Visit [amica.gov.au](http://amica.gov.au) for more information.

Information about parenting plans and family dispute resolution near you is available from the **Family Relationship Advice Line**. You can contact the Advice Line by calling **1800 050 321**. It is available from 8am to 8pm on Mondays to Fridays and 10am to 4pm on Saturdays (except national public holidays). Visit the **Family Relationships Online website** for more information: [familyrelationships.gov.au/parenting](http://familyrelationships.gov.au/parenting).

## HELP WITH PARENTING ORDERS

The **Parenting Orders—what you need to know handbook** is a practical resource to assist parents and legal practitioners with drafting parenting orders, including consent orders: [ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/publications/parenting-orders-what-you-need-know](http://ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/publications/parenting-orders-what-you-need-know)

Applying for parenting orders in the **Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia**: [fcfcoa.gov.au/hdi/apply-parenting-orders](http://fcfcoa.gov.au/hdi/apply-parenting-orders)

Applying for parenting orders in the **Family Court of Western Australia**: [familycourt.wa.gov.au/P/parenting\\_orders.aspx](http://familycourt.wa.gov.au/P/parenting_orders.aspx).

## IF YOU HAVE TO GO TO COURT TO GET A PARENTING ORDER

### Who can apply for a parenting order?

A parent, grandparent, or anyone else concerned with the care, welfare or development of a child may seek a parenting order from a court.

### What does the court consider?

The court will consider 6 factors to decide what parenting arrangements will be in the best interests of the child:

1. the safety of the child and caregivers
2. the child's views
3. the developmental, psychological, emotional and cultural needs of the child
4. the capacity of each caregiver to provide for those needs
5. the benefit to the child of having a relationship with their parents, and other significant people
6. anything else that is relevant.

If the court is making orders about an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander child, the court will also consider how parenting arrangements will help that child to experience their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

### Can my child express their views?

Children can express their views on matters that affect them in a number of ways. The court may appoint an independent children's lawyer, a court child expert or other private expert (such as a social worker or psychologist appointed on behalf of or by both parties), who may meet with the child and provide a report to the court.

### Can I challenge a parenting order?

If you are dissatisfied with a court decision, the only way to challenge that decision is through an appeal. Further information is available on the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia website: [fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/appeals](http://fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/appeals) and the Family Court of Western Australia website: [familycourt.wa.gov.au/A/appeals.aspx](http://familycourt.wa.gov.au/A/appeals.aspx).

### What do I do if the other party will not stop filing applications to the court?

Courts have the power to make 'harmful proceedings orders' to prevent a litigant from filing and serving new applications without first obtaining leave from the court. These orders may be made on the court's own initiative or on application by a party to proceedings, at any time while the proceedings are on foot. The court needs to be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that further proceedings would be harmful, which may include psychological harm or oppression, major mental distress, behaviour which causes a detrimental effect on the other party's capacity to care for a child, or financial harm.



# CHANGING A PARENTING ORDER

If your circumstances change after the original court orders are made and both parents agree to the changes, you can make a parenting plan (see 'Key Terms' above). Although a parenting plan is not legally enforceable, it can change the arrangements that have been provided for in court orders. The parenting plan would be considered by the court if a matter comes before it in the future.

If you cannot agree, you can apply to the court to seek to **vary** the existing parenting orders. You must satisfy the court that there has been a change in circumstance since the original orders were made. You may also need to undergo family dispute resolution before the court will hear your matter.

## FIND MORE INFORMATION

The website of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia at [www.fcfcoa.gov.au/fl](http://www.fcfcoa.gov.au/fl) contains useful information to help people going through separation or who have family law matters before the court, including:

- The **appeals process**: [fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/appeals](http://fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/appeals)
- Reviewing **registrar decisions**: [fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/forms/app-review](http://fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/forms/app-review)
- **Varying parenting orders**: [fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/children/changing-arrangements](http://fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/children/changing-arrangements)
- **Enforcing parenting orders**: [fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/children/compliance-enforcement](http://fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/children/compliance-enforcement)
- The **National Contravention List**: [fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/national-contravention-list](http://fcfcoa.gov.au/fl/national-contravention-list)

For those in Western Australia, visit the website of the Family Court of Western Australia: [familycourt.wa.gov.au](http://familycourt.wa.gov.au).

# WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE DOES NOT FOLLOW A PARENTING ORDER

When someone has intentionally failed to comply with an order, or has made no reasonable attempt to comply with an order, then you can: seek legal advice, attend family dispute resolution, or apply to the court to seek compliance, punishment or another consequence for contravening (breaching) the order. As family law matters are civil and not criminal proceedings, the court must first receive a contravention application from a party to enforce an order. The police have no legal power to enforce a parenting order unless they are specifically directed by the court. In contravention proceedings, the court will consider the best interests of the child.

Under a contravention application the court has the power to order a range of remedies. Remedies include 'make up' contact (such as another weekend) where contact has been missed through a breach of an order; a costs order; or even punishment by way of a fine or imprisonment where there is either a series of breaches or a serious disregard of court orders. Punishing a parent who has breached a court order may not always be in the best interests of the child or children involved.

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia seeks to ensure that breaches of orders are dealt with quickly, safely and cost-effectively. The National Contravention List in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia enables contravention applications to be first considered by a Contravention Registrar (an officer of the court) within 14 days of filing. If matters are not able to be resolved with the assistance of the Contravention Registrar, and a court hearing is required, matters will be prioritised according to the particular circumstances of the case.

## OTHER ENQUIRIES AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Visit the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia enquiries hub for frequently asked questions or to submit an enquiry: [fcfcoa.gov.au/enquiries-hub](http://fcfcoa.gov.au/enquiries-hub). If your matter is urgent or requires time critical intervention call **1300 352 000**. Visit [fcfcoa.gov.au/contact-us](http://fcfcoa.gov.au/contact-us) for more options to contact the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

For residents of Western Australia, visit the website of the Family Court of Western Australia at [familycourt.wa.gov.au](http://familycourt.wa.gov.au). Contact the Family Court of Western Australia by calling **(08) 9224 8222** (8am to 5pm Monday to Friday) or visit [familycourt.wa.gov.au/\\_misc/contactus.aspx](http://familycourt.wa.gov.au/_misc/contactus.aspx).

## Family Dispute Resolution (Mediation) Service

# Things to Consider for a Parenting Plan

### Children's Care Arrangements

- How will we arrange our children's care? What days fit with them and our work?
- What changes will need to be considered as our children get older?
- How will we make sure our children continue to maintain relationships with Grandparents, brothers, sisters, extended family, and other significant people to them?
- How will we make **weekends, public holidays, pupil free days, and school holidays** work for our children?
- How will our children continue to enjoy **Christmas, Easter and special events** in both their families?

### Health

- How will we manage an **emergency** and make decisions on **any future medical needs**?
- How will we keep both parents informed and involved in our children's **medical needs**?
- How will medical/dental appointments be arranged and will each parent attend?
- How will we manage ongoing **health costs** for our children?
- Are there other **special needs** we need to discuss to keep our children **well cared for**?

### Education

- How will we ensure our children's **educational** needs (school, tutors, homework etc) are being met?
- What is a good way to continue to share the **financial responsibilities** for our children (clothing, shoes, extra-curricular activities etc)?
- What is the best way to manage ongoing shared commitments to our children's **education** (school fees, uniform, books, resources etc) and their **extra-curricular activities**?
- How will we ensure relevant information about their school and schooling reaches both their homes?

### Co-Parenting Communication

- How will we **communicate** effectively about our children and keep them out of the adult issues?
- What is a respectful and timely manner for **replying** to co-parenting communication?
- How will we respectfully manage **cancellations, changes** and **extra time** not included in the agreement?
- How will we manage difficult conversations about their ongoing care?
- How will we manage upsetting information in a child-focussed way that supports our children?
- How do we want to manage introducing **new partners** to our children?
- How do we want to manage **future discussions/disputes** (return to **mediation**)?

### **Travelling**

- How will we ensure that our children are able to enjoy and experience **interstate or overseas travel**?
- How will we facilitate contact for the other parent during travel?
- How will we manage the days they are not with the other parent when travelling?
- How will we manage time they missed with the other parent while travelling?
- If the children's family lives overseas, how will we support them to have a meaningful relationship with them?

### **Religious/Cultural needs**

- How will we support our children to **maintain a connection with their culture**?
- How will we support our children to understand and value their **cultural practices**?
- How will we keep our **family rituals and traditions** for our children (Christmas/Easter, Ramadan, Diwali, Chinese New Year etc)?
- What is needed for our children to keep their **traditional language**?

### **Decision Making**

- What decisions do we consider to be up to each parent when the children are in their care?
- What decisions do we consider should be made jointly for their benefit?
- How will we share the outcomes of decisions that affect the children in both their homes?
- What are our individual and collective thoughts about e-safety?
- How do we want to manage e-safety in both their homes?
- How will we manage back up and support care for our children?
- How will we manage the individual and joint responsibility of financially providing our children with the best opportunities?

**Remember your parenting plan has legal significance and shows legal intention in courts but is not a legally binding document.**

**Please seek legal advice about your children's rights and child support.**

**Your parenting plan is made in good faith with the intention of supporting the benefit of your children maintaining a relationship with both parents and significant people to them.**

## Family Dispute Resolution (Mediation) Service

### Information and Contacts for Grandparents

#### For Grandparents in Dispute

For Grandparents who have been separated from their grandchildren following the breakdown of the parents relationship or Grandparents who have care of their grandchildren and wish to discuss any changes with either of the parents who have separated. Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) provides mediation as an alternative way of resolving disputes and can avoid the financial and emotional costs involved in legal action.

#### Family Dispute Resolution

The FDR Practitioner (FDRP) guides the process of discussion, supports all members, remains impartial to the outcomes while facilitating those involved to reach their own agreements.

FDRP's assist families and children to discuss and reach an agreement that is safe and in the best interest of the children. This can be about general living arrangements, how they spend time with extended family as well as any other care related conversations. The needs and interests of the children are central to any agreements reached.

Centacare takes the safety of families very seriously. Please discuss any safety concerns with your FDRP.

Confidentiality and Privacy are of the utmost importance in FDR services. All FDRP's and Child Consultants must work within the Family Law Act (FLA) 1975 – section 10H, where communications made in FDR are not to be disclosed and are inadmissible in court unless required or authorised under the FLA.

#### Contacts

<b>Grandparents for Grandchildren</b> (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Level 2, 345 King William St, Adelaide)	8212 1937
<b>Family Relationship Advice Line</b> (Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, 10am- 4pm Sat)	1800 050 321
<b>Parent Helpline</b> (24 hours) Telephone support for parents, children & youth	1300 364 100
<b>Legal Services Commission</b> Legal Help Line (Mon-Fri 9am – 4.30 pm)	1300 366 424
Adelaide (Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm, Gawler Place)	8111 5555

#### Websites

<b>Family Relationship Advice Line</b>	<a href="http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/default.aspx">http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/default.aspx</a>
<b>Grandparents for Grandchildren SA</b>	<a href="http://www.gfgsa.com.au/">http://www.gfgsa.com.au/</a>
<b>Parenting SA</b>	<a href="https://parenting.sa.gov.au/easy-guides/grandparenting-parent-easy-guide">https://parenting.sa.gov.au/easy-guides/grandparenting-parent-easy-guide</a>
<b>Raising Children</b>	<a href="https://raisingchildren.net.au/grown-ups/grandparents">https://raisingchildren.net.au/grown-ups/grandparents</a>

## Family Dispute Resolution (Mediation) Service

### Information and Contacts for **Step-Parents**

Step-parents can play an important role in a child's life when there has been a joining of families. This relationship takes time to build and must be done in a respectful way taking into consideration the needs of all the family members involved.

Family Dispute Resolution is a service where parents can attend and obtain assistance to manage the discussion about the care of the children from the relationship. Step-parents can sometimes feel left out of this process and while they are acknowledged as important members of children's families, the Family Law Act (1975) only allows for discussions between parents.

At Centacare we are mindful of all important roles in children's lives and if you or your partner have any questions or concerns that include the role of step-parents, these can be discussed at the confidential intake appointment.

Step-parenting is a steep learning curve and often some assistance may be required for those members involved in blending families. Adults often require additional support as the decision to be involved in the relationship is not the children's decision and adults must take the responsibility for making the relationships work.

#### Contacts

<b>Relationships Australia</b> (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, 161 Frome Rd, Adelaide)	8223 4566
<b>Family Relationship Advice Line</b> (Mon-Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 10am 4pm)	1800 050 321
<b>Parent Helpline</b> (24 hours) Provides telephone support and information	1300 364 100
<b>Legal Service Commission</b> Legal Help line	1300 366 424

#### Websites

<b>Family Relationship Advice Line</b>	<a href="http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/default.aspx">http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/default.aspx</a>
<b>Parenting (with Grandparenting information)</b>	<a href="http://www.parenting.sa.gov.au">www.parenting.sa.gov.au</a>
<b>Raising Children</b>	<a href="https://raisingchildren.net.au/grown-ups/family-diversity">https://raisingchildren.net.au/grown-ups/family-diversity</a>
<b>Step Families</b>	<a href="https://stepfamily.org.au/">https://stepfamily.org.au/</a>
<b>Step-parenting Tips</b>	<a href="https://www.helpguide.org/articles/parenting-family/step-parenting-blended-families.htm">https://www.helpguide.org/articles/parenting-family/step-parenting-blended-families.htm</a>

We deliver a responsive, flexible and effective mediation service to the SA community without regard to religion, race, culture, gender identity or economic circumstances.





## **Family Dispute Resolution (Mediation Service)**

### **Parenting Apps**

**There are many parenting applications which may be used as a way of communicating and organising schedules as co-parents. The following are a few suggestions only and are not endorsed of affiliated with Centacare Catholic Family Services.**

#### **Free Apps:**

***Cozi*** – <http://www.cozi.com/>

A parenting app which features include a Family Calendar which is a shared, colour-coded calendar which includes all activities. Set reminders and send agenda emails. Create to-do lists for all members of the family. Create a shopping list. Store recipes and plan meals for the week. Store photos in the family journal. Get a snap-shot of the day's activities.

***AppClose***- <https://appclose.com>

A parenting app designed to support families of all forms with co-parenting communications, multi-functional calendars, important information and record keeping. Communicate children's activities and appointments, provide important child-related information (i.e medical, child care etc) and communicate by text with the added benefit of organising unaltered conversations by topic or expenses.

***TimeTree***- <https://timetreeapp.com>

A parenting app that allows you to share your calendars, record and share your objectives and create multiple schedules.

***Divvito***- <https://divvito.com>

A parenting app designed to help make communication easier with help of a personal messaging assistant 'Dani' who helps keep communication positive. The mobile calendar within the app allows parents to add important events and reminders to the calendar where the dates and times are highlighted. Communication preferences can be tailored to enable greater control around when, how and what can be discussed.

## Monthly or yearly Payments:

### **2 Houses – [www.2houses.com](http://www.2houses.com)**

A parenting app which features an interactive calendar with specific features for separated parents. Manage finances can show what needs to be paid and by whom, to ensure the accounts are balanced. The journal allows parents to share all information, news, photos, videos, and your children's funny quotes in a closed and secure setting. Store children's information including contacts and medical information in the secure information bank. Create task and to do lists to ensure each parent is aware of what needs to be done. The application sends push notifications to your phone, you configure what notifications you would like.

### **Our Family Wizard – <https://www.ourfamilywizard.com/> -**

A parenting app featuring a calendar for shared care and holiday arrangements, more in-depth look at activities, export calendar to PDF for printing. Message board for sending private messages which includes a tone meter (optional add-on) which helps you identify and flag emotionally charged sentences within the message. Manage private and shared family information. Include information about individual or recurring payments, split expenses and reimbursements. Receive notifications about new expenses and paid, waiting and refused expenses. Maintain a journal of important information. Journal can also act as a certified, unchangeable personal incident log.

### **WeParent- <https://weparent.app>**

A parenting app that allows co-parents to manage all aspects of parenting communication and logistics. This includes children's schedules, events and appointments, secure messages and safe sharing of documents and photos. Access includes setting up schedules for the school year, summer, holidays, and travel. Built-in templates allow for easy use or users can use a custom schedule. Share school report cards, immunisation records and photos quickly and securely. A Record Keeping feature archives everything that the co-parents share on the app and can be retrieved.

### **Talking Parents- <https://talkingparents.com>**

A parenting app with a variety of tools that make day-to-day co-parenting activities easier. Allows phone and video calls without disclosing the phone number. Features include a shared calendar, sent and viewed timestamps for messages as well as an 'Accountable Payments' feature which allows for money to be sent and received between co-parents as well as scheduling or requesting payments. Files/documents can also be stored in the app and parents can choose to share any files.

## Family Dispute Resolution (Mediation) Service

# Information Regarding Child Inclusive Practice

In accessing our FDR Service, there is an option for your children's 'voice' to be included in the process. This occurs with a Child Consultant talking to your children in **confidence** and sharing the information back to both parents.

If both parents and your practitioner decide that Child Inclusive FDR may be beneficial, there is some important information you need to know about your appointments:

**Parents' Individual Appointments** - Either in person or over the phone for 45-60 mins.

- A fee is payable at the completion of the appointment.
- Only the parent can be present.
- Children are not required at this interview. It is not possible for children to attend with parents for this appointment, nor are children able to wait unsupervised during your appointment.
- All aspects of the parents and children's involvement are discussed.
- The contents of this interview or any other matters relating to the child inclusive process **MUST NOT** be shared or discussed with your children.

**The suitability to continue with the children's appointment is determined by the Child Consultant and FDR Practitioner at the conclusion of the parents' interviews.**

**Your Children's Appointment** – Can take 1-1.5 hours for each child

- Notification confirming the children's appointments is sent to the parent with care on the day.
- Children begin together and when comfortable, the Child Consultant will seek their permission to see them separately.
- Please encourage your children to feel secure and able to speak openly.
- Give them permission to speak exactly how they want to and about what they want to.
- Tell them it is important for them to share this information to help you and the other parent to make decisions in their best interests.
- Reassure them of your continued love and support no matter the information revealed.
- Refrain from indicating directly/indirectly your preferred options or outcomes.
- Reassure them that you and the other parent will be making parenting decisions based on the information shared with them and that the children are never responsible for such important decisions.

At the conclusion of the interview:

- Please refrain from asking anything about the contents of their discussions.
- If they choose to share, then it is important not to pass judgment or comment on the information but rather to let them speak freely to you and accept whatever they share without trying to correct or amend their feelings or thoughts.

### **Feedback Appointment – 2 hours**

- Both parents together with the Consultant and FDR Practitioner
- Consultant will share the information
- Parents hear the information as their children's views and wishes
- Option to take a break, finish the appointment or continue to discuss parenting matters made by all.

### **If it is deemed inappropriate to see the children by the Child Consultant and FDR Practitioner after the parent's interviews**

- The Child Consultant can join the next joint session and share knowledge and expertise for your consideration that may assist with the discussions about the best options for your children's care.

### **Child Inclusive Practice Cannot Happen When:**

- Parents wish to use it to strengthen their own point of view.
- Parents believe it will prove the other parent's view wrong.
- It is not safe for children to express their views freely.
- The child is unable to articulate their feelings or needs.
- The likelihood of Court is obvious to the parties involved.
- The practitioner believes there is a possibility that the child may be coerced.
- Not all involved give mutual consent.
- If the practitioner or Child Consultant believes, it would not add to the discussions.
- There are high levels of conflict and/or family violence.
- The children are involved in other support services.
- There is any indication that there will be a negative impact for the children after the feedback.

### **Please refer to our brochures for further information.**

If you have any queries not answered by this information, please note it for when you speak to the Child Consultant at your interview.