

FAMILY ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICE

DUTY LAWYER AND SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICE

The Family Advocacy and Support Service (FASS), located at the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, recognises that people coming to the Court have more than just legal issues. FASS includes both duty lawyer and social support services.

DUTY LAWYER SERVICE

Duty lawyers can provide advice and, in some circumstances, they can provide minor legal assistance on a one-off basis.

Examples of what duty lawyers **can** do:

- Provide family law advice about your Court hearing and/or legal problem
- Help with adjournments—generally limited to adjournments of the first court appearance
- Help with legal aid applications
- Provide referrals to private practitioners and other services
- Provide assistance in some urgent proceedings, including recovery orders

Duty lawyers **cannot**:

- Provide ongoing assistance and representation for complex hearings, contravention applications and trials
- Complete complex documents, such as trial affidavits and subpoenas

SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICE

Social support workers can help you engage with the family law system safely and help you with safety planning.

The social support workers include a family social worker, a mental health worker and a dedicated men's worker. They can connect you with all the relevant services that you need, such as parenting programs, accommodation, financial counselling, and other social support services.

The men's worker also provides an outreach service to men in the family violence list in the Magistrates Courts.

CONTACT

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