
Legal Reference Guide Book

Family law and you



Legal Services
Commission South Australia



Family law and you
Produced by the Legal Services
Commission SA.

This booklet is for couples who are separating. This is a simple guide to family law. It is not a substitute for legal advice.

The information contained in this booklet has been prepared with due care and is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. However, no responsibility will be taken for the accuracy or reliability of such information, or for any loss that may arise from an error or omission in the information.

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Legal Help for all South Australians

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Family law and you

This booklet has been prepared by the Legal Services Commission (Legal Services) to explain family law basics and tell you what to do if you need to take legal action. Often you will have choices and **you should get legal advice** before deciding what to do.

A lawyer can help you understand your legal rights and responsibilities and explain how the law applies to your case. A lawyer can also help you reach agreement with the other person without having to go to court. For details of where to get further information and advice, see 'Services' on page 40.

The information in this booklet is current at the time of printing, but family law and court rules and procedures are always changing. If you have a family law problem, get legal advice.

The **Family Law Act** is the main law that deals with divorce, disputes about property and the care of children. All children are covered by the Family Law Act, no matter where in Australia they live or who their parents are. In South Australia, the **Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia** resolves disputes under the Family Law Act. References to 'the Family Law Court' or 'the court' in this booklet refer to this court, unless stated otherwise.

South Australian courts and tribunals such as the **Magistrates Court**, the **Youth Court** and the **South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT)** are involved in matters not covered by the Family Law Act. This may include some property disputes, family violence intervention orders, child protection, changing names, and wills.

Reaching agreement

Most separated couples can work out arrangements for their children or the division of their property between themselves. Under the Family Law Act, separated partners must make a genuine effort to resolve problems before applying to the court for orders.

If you and your former partner have an amicable relationship, you may be able to reach agreement between yourselves. If your circumstances are not complex, consider using **amica** (www.amica.gov.au). This online service helps separating couples reach agreement about parenting and property. You can download your agreement, and if you want to apply to the court for orders to confirm your property agreement, you can generate an application for consent orders on amica. See 'Reaching agreement' on page 30 for more information.



Family Dispute Resolution

Another way to resolve disputes is through **Family Dispute Resolution (FDR)**, also known as mediation or conferencing.

FDR is conducted in a relatively **informal** but **safe** and **confidential** environment. An independent person experienced in family law disputes, known as a **Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner**, helps separating families work through disagreements and try to find solutions to the dispute together. The FDR Practitioner does not take sides or tell you what to do.

As FDR can involve both parents and extended family reaching a solution together, this improves the chances that the agreement will last. FDR is also less expensive, time consuming and confrontational than going to court. For a full list of FDR services, visit www.familyrelationships.gov.au.

You should get legal advice before participating in FDR. FDR Practitioners do not provide legal advice. FDR works best when everyone feels safe and can negotiate equally. If there is a history of family violence or allegations of child abuse, neglect or abduction, it may not be appropriate to participate in FDR.

Legal Services provides legally assisted FDR, called **conferencing**, through its Family Dispute Resolution Unit. To use this service, at least one of the people involved in the dispute must be eligible for legal aid. To find out more, see our brochures on '[Family Law Conferencing](#)' and '[Property Dispute Resolution Conferencing](#)'.

The Family Law Court will usually refuse an application unless the applicant has made a genuine effort to resolve the dispute by other means, including through Family Dispute Resolution. This requirement may not apply to cases involving family violence, child abuse or urgency.

Lawyers

The Family Law Act aims to facilitate the resolution of family law disputes without going to court. However, when separating, it is still wise to get legal advice so that you know what to expect when making decisions about children, child support or property.

When seeing a lawyer, you should:

- find out how much it will **cost** you
- ask about **legal aid**
- show your lawyer any **important documents** such as letters from your former partner or court orders
- avoid signing or agreeing to anything that you do not understand
- ask your lawyer to explain all your **options** and the **risks** involved in any legal action
- **keep a record** of what you agree to.

Your lawyer should not commit you to anything that you have not discussed or agreed to. If you are not satisfied with your lawyer, you can change to another lawyer, but you should not do this without a good reason. Apart from having to start afresh and familiarise a new lawyer with your case, your existing lawyer may refuse to release your file until you have paid any outstanding fees.

Legal aid

A grant of legal aid for a lawyer to act on your behalf may be available for disputes about children and for family conferencing. In some limited cases, legal aid may be available for property disputes. You can apply for legal aid directly to [Legal Services](#) online or through a private lawyer. Legal Services will decide if you are eligible by assessing your **financial situation**. Your case must also have **merit**.

This means that what you are asking for is reasonable and if you went to court, your case would have a reasonable chance of success.

Legal aid is not free. If you get legal aid, you will have to pay a contribution towards your legal costs. For family law matters, the minimum contribution is \$70. The amount you are ultimately required to pay will depend on your financial circumstances. If you own real estate but have no cash, you may have to repay your legal aid costs when you sell your property or when your financial position changes, even if this is many years later.

Legal Services also has a **free Legal Helpline (1300 366 424)** available Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm. A lawyer can provide preliminary information, advice and referrals. Advice is usually restricted to a client's basic legal rights and obligations in a particular situation and the options available.

Representing yourself in court

You have the right to take your case to court by yourself. You should still **get legal advice** beforehand as you may be disadvantaged if your former partner has a lawyer or if the case is complex.

If you are not eligible for legal aid for a lawyer to act on your behalf and you cannot afford a private lawyer, seek help from a **community legal centre**. If you are representing yourself, it is important to familiarise yourself with the relevant law and court rules. Court staff can help with questions about court forms and court processes but cannot give you legal advice.

Your case, or story, must be presented to the court in writing, using the correct forms and affidavits. These must be prepared properly, and this will require some skill and knowledge. You will need to know the contents of documents from the other side and how to challenge incorrect material. If your matter goes to trial, you will also need to know the court rules about giving evidence and cross-examination (questioning) of witnesses. The court can only provide you with limited assistance.

If there are allegations of family violence, you and your former partner may not be permitted to cross-examine each other personally. Any cross-examination will need to be conducted by a lawyer acting on your behalf. You may pay a private lawyer, or you may apply for legal representation under the **Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross-Examination of Parties Scheme**, which is administered by Legal Services.

Funding for this specific purpose is not means or merit tested but you may be asked to pay a contribution towards the cost, depending on your circumstances. For more information, see the duty lawyers at the Family Advocacy and Support Service (discussed on the next page).

Family Advocacy and Support Service

This service, located at the Family Law Court, recognises that people coming to court have more than just legal needs. The service has both **duty lawyers** and **social support workers**.

Duty lawyers can:

- provide **information** and **advice** about family law, intervention orders, and care and protection matters
- help with **adjournments** and **legal aid** applications
- help with some **urgent** proceedings, including recovery orders
- provide **referrals** to other appropriate organisations.

Duty lawyers **cannot**:

- provide ongoing assistance and representation
- prepare complex court documents
- provide specific legal advice regarding property settlements (only general information and advice)
- issue subpoenas.

Social support workers at the court support people affected by family violence. The social support worker can help with safety planning and can connect clients with accommodation, financial counselling, and other social support services.

For more information, call **8111 5300** or email Family.DutyLawyer@lsc.sa.gov.au.



Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia has the power to deal with Family Law Act matters.

The court deals with:

- all orders relating to **children**, including where a child lives, who a child spends time with and communicates with, child support, and other issues regarding a child's welfare (such as education, religion, and medical matters)
- orders to **locate** and **return children** to parents (these are called 'location and recovery orders')
- orders to enforce existing **parenting orders** and impose penalties where orders have been contravened (an order is contravened when it is not followed)
- determination of **parentage**
- applications for **maintenance**
- **property disputes** between couples who have been in a de facto relationship or married
- **divorce**.

Family law cases begin with an **application** to the court. Fees are charged for lodging most applications but if you hold a concession card or are facing financial hardship, you may be able to apply to have the fee reduced or waived.

For some matters, such as an uncomplicated divorce, most people are capable of filling in the forms themselves. If there is a dispute about children or property, then it may be better to have a lawyer help with any application to the court.

Separation

A couple is separated when they are leading separate lives. Unless you are in a registered relationship under a State or Territory law, there are **no formal procedures** to show that you are separated, no forms to fill in and nobody to notify. If you claim Centrelink payments, you will need to **notify Centrelink** of your separation within **14 days**, because this may affect your payments.

Regardless of whose name is on the title to the family home, both members of the couple are entitled to live there. If there is a dispute, you cannot force your partner to leave without an order requiring them to leave. If the situation is unpleasant you may prefer to leave the home, but keep in mind the importance of maintaining a relationship with your children.

The court is generally reluctant to interrupt the children's usual living arrangements. If a long time passes without you seeing the children, this may affect any application you later make about who the children should live with or spend time with. If you find yourself in this situation, **get legal advice** without delay.

See also 'Property' on page 28 for more information to consider if you plan to leave the family home.

Period of separation

For a divorce, you must be separated for at least **12 months**. However, it is possible to separate, have one attempt at reconciliation which lasts less than 3 months, separate again, and still apply for divorce if the total period of separation adds up to 12 months.

Separation under one roof

For a divorce, a couple can be separated while living in the same house, but it must be shown that the marriage relationship has **irretrievably broken down**. You are not usually considered to have separated if you share the usual activities of marriage such as sleeping in the same bed, shopping and eating meals together, entertaining friends, going out together with your children, or sharing bank accounts.

Those intending to live separately under one roof should make sure that others know about it from the beginning of the separation, as the court often requires evidence from a friend or relative that there was a separation. There must also be good reasons why you remained together in the same house, such as caring for children or not having enough money to live separately.



Divorce

Divorce is the legal end of a marriage. The only ground for divorce is the **irretrievable breakdown of the marriage**. It does not matter who was at fault or whether one spouse does not want a divorce.

You must show the court that you have not been living as a married couple for at least **12 months** and that you will not get back together. The only way to stop a divorce is to show that this has not occurred. A divorce does not deal with issues such as who the children live with, child support or the division of property.

People married less than 2 years cannot apply for divorce unless they first get a certificate from a counsellor, stating they have attended marriage counselling and that reconciliation is unlikely, or they have other special reasons to obtain a divorce.

Applying for a divorce

You do not need a lawyer to apply for a divorce. Either you or your spouse, or both of you together, can apply. Divorce applications are usually filed **online**. For more information, visit www.fcfcga.gov.au. If you are not able to file your application online, you can contact the National Enquiry Centre and ask for the application forms to be sent to you. You can do this by using the live chat function on the website, by calling 1300 352 000 or by email to enquiries@fcfcga.gov.au.

The **cost** of filing a divorce application is **\$1,060** (as at 1 July 2023). You may be eligible for a **fee reduction**, particularly if you receive a Centrelink benefit or hold a concession card. The reduced fee is **\$350** (as at 1 July 2023). You can also apply for the fee to be reduced if you are in financial hardship, however you will not be able to file your application online and you should contact the National Enquiry Centre so that the forms can be sent to you.

Legal Services can offer advice about divorce. If you have difficulty reading or writing in English, you may be eligible for a legal aid lawyer. If you do not know the whereabouts of your former spouse, it is still possible to get a divorce but the application is more complicated and you should get legal advice.

The divorce papers include questions about the care of any children under 18 (which can include any child who was living with both of you at the time of separation). The forms ask about where the children live, their time and communication with each of you, the financial support provided by each of you, their health and their education. Although the court considers the arrangements for children when granting a divorce, the arrangements do not become orders of the court and are not binding on you.

Divorce hearings are generally conducted **online**. Usually the person applying for the divorce (or their lawyer) must attend the hearing (online) if there are children under 18 years. The other spouse is not required to attend unless they want to argue against a divorce. If there are no children under 18 years of age, the applicant can state on the form that they do not want to attend the hearing. However, they must attend if their spouse wants to oppose the divorce.

The divorce order becomes final **1 month** after the court makes the order. From that time, you are free to remarry. The court sends out divorce order certificates after the divorce becomes final.

Children



The Family Law Act regards the best interests of the child as the most important consideration.

When making parenting arrangements following separation, the Family Law Act regards the **best interests of the child** as the most important consideration.

It aims to facilitate children having both of their parents in their lives if that is in their best interests. Parents are encouraged to consult each other and make decisions together about major long-term issues where it is safe to do so, unless the court orders otherwise.

Children generally have a right to know and be cared for by both their parents and to spend time with other people significant to their care, such as grandparents and other relatives. Parents may put forward what they want, but the law is most concerned with ensuring that any orders meet the best interests of the child.

The Family Law Act uses the words 'lives with' rather than 'residence' or 'custody'. Similarly, the words 'spends time with' and 'communicates with' are used rather than 'contact' or 'access'.

The **views of the children** can be taken into account depending on their maturity and level of understanding, as well as the reasons for the children's views. The interests and views of children are considered both at Family Dispute Resolution and any court proceedings.

What happens to children after separation

Like adults, children react in different ways to separation or divorce. How they react often depends on their age, temperament and the level of cooperation or conflict between the parents. For young children, family breakdown can be difficult to understand. Older children can also feel confused and uncertain even though they may be more able to understand what is happening.

The way parents or other family members react and adjust to the separation can make a big difference to how children feel. Continued fighting can hurt children more than the separation itself. Children need the continuing care and support of both parents. They may worry less if you can agree about what is going to happen and explain why. However, you should be careful not to discuss the dispute with your child or allow anyone else to do so.

What you need to consider

When making arrangements for children, you should consider:

- the routine living arrangements that will be in their best interests
- how their time will be spent with each of you and with other significant people in their lives, such as grandparents and other relatives
- who will look after them after school
- where they will spend holidays
- how you will celebrate special occasions
- the children's cultural background, and how they will continue to be involved in that culture
- other matters such as choice of school, sport, health care, and religion.

Every family is different. The arrangements that work for your family may be different from other families. Try to make arrangements that will work the best for your children.

Parenting plans

A parenting plan is a written agreement, signed and dated by both parents, that sets out parenting arrangements for children. All separated parents should consider preparing a parenting plan. Like a court order, any decision made in developing a parenting plan should reflect the **best interests of the children**.

The plan can cover where your children will live, who they will spend time with, their schooling, and other specific issues such as holidays, health care and religious matters. A parenting plan can ensure you and the other parent are clear about any agreed arrangements for your children.

A **Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner** can help you reach agreement about a parenting plan (see 'Reaching Agreement' on page 2 and 'Services' on page 40). Anything discussed at Family Dispute Resolution is confidential and cannot be disclosed to the court. However, the parenting plan itself is not confidential.

Changes to parenting plans

A parenting plan should be **flexible** enough to cover the changing needs of children and parents and include a way of resolving disputes. A parenting plan can be changed at any time to suit your needs if both parents agree. If you want to change a parenting plan and the other parent does not agree, Family Dispute Resolution may help to resolve the matter.

If you have attempted Family Dispute Resolution and still cannot reach agreement, you can apply to the court for parenting orders. You should **get legal advice** first.

Enforceability of parenting plans

A parenting plan is **not a legally enforceable** agreement. It is only a record of what has been agreed to and is different to a parenting order made by the court. However, the court may take into account a parenting plan previously agreed to when making parenting orders.

Consent orders

If you want to make your parenting plan legally binding and enforceable, you and the other parent must together apply to the court for consent orders. A consent order is a written agreement for long term dispute resolution that is approved by the court. If the court approves the consent orders, they have the same legal effect as any other court order. The court must be satisfied that the orders covering parenting arrangements are in the **best interests of the children**.

A consent order can also cover financial arrangements such as child support, property division and maintenance (between parents who have separated).

Consent order templates can be obtained from the Court Registry or online at www.fcfcqa.gov.au. Both parents should get **independent legal advice** before they sign a consent order.

Parenting orders

All court orders about children are called **parenting orders**. Any person concerned with the care, welfare or development of a child can apply for parenting orders.

Parenting orders can specify people other than parents who are to spend time with the child, including grandparents and other relatives. While the court can order that a parent be allowed to spend time with a child, it cannot make a parent do so.

The court can include special conditions in an order. It can specify where the handover of the children must take place, or require supervision during visits if it thinks it necessary.

Other orders can be made giving one parent responsibility for aspects of the care, welfare and development of the child, such as education and medical treatment.

In making a parenting order, the behaviour of the parents before and after separation may be relevant. Because the court considers each matter individually, no one can tell you exactly what the court will decide in your case. For this reason, it is not useful to compare your case with others you may have heard about.

Orders you can seek

A parenting order may deal with 1 or more of the following:

- the allocation of parental responsibility for a child and, if 2 or more people are to share parental responsibility for a child, how they are to consult with one another about decisions concerning the child
- who a child is to live with
- the time a child is to spend with other people
- when and where handover will occur
- how the child will communicate with other people
- child maintenance (for children not covered by the Child Support Scheme)
- how disputes about the terms or operation of the order will be resolved
- how the order can be changed
- any aspect of the care, welfare or development of the child or any other aspect of parental responsibility for the child.

How the court decides

When the court makes a parenting order, the Family Law Act requires it to regard the **best interests of the child** as the most important consideration.

In deciding what is in the best interests of a child, the court **must** consider:

- what arrangements would promote the **safety** (including safety from family violence, abuse, neglect or other harm) of the **child** and **each person who cares for the child**
- any **views** expressed by the **child**
- the developmental, psychological, emotional and cultural **needs of the child**
- the **capacity** of each person who has or is proposed to have **parental responsibility** for the child to provide for the child's developmental, psychological, emotional and cultural needs
- the benefit to the child of being able to have a **relationship with the child's parents** and other people who are significant to the child, where it is safe to do so
- anything else relevant to the particular circumstances of the child.

In considering these matters, the court must also consider any **history of family violence**, abuse or neglect involving the child or a person caring for the child, and any family violence order that applies or has applied to the child or a family member.

Where orders are being made with respect to an **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child**, the court must also consider:

- the child's **right to enjoy their culture**, by having the support, opportunity and encouragement necessary to connect with their family, community, culture, country and language, and
- the **impact** a proposed **parenting order** may have on that right.

Parental responsibility

Parents are responsible for their children until they turn 18. Parental responsibility does not change if parents separate, marry or remarry.

From 6 May 2024, the court will no longer presume that it is in the best interests of a child for their parents to have equal shared parental responsibility.

Parents will nevertheless be encouraged to consult each other and make decisions together about major long-term issues where it is safe to do so, unless the court orders otherwise. Major long-term issues might include education, religious and cultural upbringing, and medical treatment.

Children's views

The court will not hear from the child directly. It will instead hear from other witnesses about the child's views. To help decide, the court may ask a **Court Child Expert** to prepare a **Child Impact Report**.

In more complex cases, the court may appoint an **Independent Children's Lawyer** to represent the interests of the child. This lawyer investigates what is in the child's best interests and provides information to the court.

From 6 May 2024, Independent Children's Lawyers will be required to meet with the child and give them an opportunity to express their views. There are some exceptions, such as where the child is under 5 or they do not want to meet or express their views.

The court will never require a child or an Independent Children's Lawyer to disclose the child's views to the court. The Independent Children's Lawyer may disclose information the child tells them if the disclosure is in the best interests of the child.

Applying for parenting orders

Before applying to the court for parenting orders, you must make a **genuine effort** to **resolve your dispute** by other means, including Family Dispute Resolution, where it is safe to do so.

If you apply to the court, then together with an Initiating Application, supporting Affidavit, Parenting Questionnaire, and Notice of child abuse, family violence or risk, you will need to either file a section 60I certificate about Family Dispute Resolution or an affidavit about why you are not filing this Family Dispute Resolution certificate, as well as a Genuine Steps Certificate.

The affidavit is your statement of what has happened and why you want the court to make the orders that you are asking for in your application. The court can provide you with a fact sheet about preparing an affidavit.

After you have completed the application and affidavit but before you sign, it must be witnessed by a lawyer or Justice of the Peace (JP). There is usually a JP available at the court.

There are strict rules about how you serve (officially deliver) documents. See the court's website (www.fccoa.gov.au) for details.

Court events and hearings

Unless your case is urgent or allocated to a special court list, your First Court Event will be between 1 and 2 months from the date you filed your application. Your First Court Event will be a hearing in a 'duty list' before a Registrar or Judge. At this hearing, the court may tell you what the next steps are in your case, make orders by consent, or, if time allows, make urgent interim (temporary) orders after a short hearing. These orders will apply until final orders are made.

Your matter will then be listed for an interim hearing if required, and there will be directions about participation in dispute resolution. It is expected that a form of dispute resolution (either within the court with a Court Child Expert or externally) will be undertaken within 5 months. If the matter is not capable of settlement, the court will list the case for a Compliance and Readiness Hearing. A Trial Management Hearing may also take place before a final hearing (called a trial). At the trial, a Judge will decide what is best for your children.

The court expects that trials will take place within 12 months from the date you filed your application. It can sometimes take a long time to proceed from interim orders to the commencement of a trial. If your case is urgent and there are special circumstances, the court may agree to hear your case before others.

Visit the Federal Circuit and Family Court website (www.fcfcga.gov.au) for more information about court procedures.

Court Child Experts

The court may at any time order parents and children to see a Court Child Expert (formerly known as family consultants). These are psychologists or social workers who specialise in child and family issues after separation. Communications with a Court Child Expert are not confidential and may be disclosed to the court.

Court Child Experts can:

- help you resolve your dispute
- tell the court about the issues in dispute
- write to the court about their meeting with you, and
- make recommendations to the court about the next step in the proceedings.

Relocation of children

Even if there is no parenting order in place, a parent should **get legal advice** before moving with a child to another region or interstate without the agreement of the other parent. If the court considers it is in the best interests of the child to remain where they are, the court may order that a child not be removed. If a parent has already removed the child, the court may order that the child be returned. If there is a risk that the other parent may remove the child from the country, the court can make orders to prevent it.

If you need to make an urgent application to the court out-of-hours, call the **National Enquiry Centre** on **1300 352 000**. If your child is removed from your region, State or from the country without your permission, you should get urgent legal advice.

Complying with orders about children

Court orders are not optional. You must **take all reasonable steps to follow an order**. If, for example, there is a parenting order that your child spends time with the other parent, you must do everything you can to encourage the child to spend time with the other parent. If you or another party do not follow an order, you should get legal advice about your options.

The court can only punish someone for not following a parenting order if you make a **contravention application** alleging the other party has not followed the order. If the parenting order is more than 12 months old, then you must first attempt to resolve the matter through Family Dispute Resolution (unless exempt for other reasons).

If the court finds a person has contravened a parenting order without reasonable excuse, it may impose a **penalty**. The court will consider whether any excuse for a contravention is reasonable according to the Family Law Act. The respondent must prove that this excuse is more likely than not to be true.

For serious penalties (a fine or imprisonment) to apply, you must prove that the other party has contravened the order beyond a reasonable doubt.

Depending on the circumstances of the case and the type of contravention, the court may:

- change the existing orders
- order attendance at a post-separation parenting program
- compensate for time lost with a child because of the contravention
- require the person to enter into a bond
- order the person to pay all or some of the legal costs of the other parties
- order that the person pay compensation for reasonable expenses lost because of the contravention
- order that a fine be paid
- order imprisonment.

If you do not want to punish the other party, but you want to be compensated for lost time with your child due to a contravention, consider making an **enforcement application** instead.

Changing parenting orders

You can change parenting orders if you and the other parent both **agree**. You can do this through a parenting plan or by further consent order. See 'Parenting Plans' and 'Consent orders' on page 14.

If there is a dispute, the court will only consider changing a final order if there has been a **significant change in circumstances** since the final order was made, and it is in the **best interests of the child** for the final order to be changed. **Get legal advice** before applying to court.

Child support

The law says that both parents have a duty to provide financial support for their children. How much should be paid depends on the financial circumstances of each parent, the level of care each parent provides for the children, the ages of the children and whether either parent supports other children (not including step-children).

Non-parent carers of children (such as grandparents or other carers) can also apply to receive child support from the parents of the children.

Services Australia can be asked to collect and transfer periodic payments of child support, or the payments can be made by private arrangement between the parties.

The Legal Services Commission's **Child Support Helpline** can give free legal advice about child support and maintenance.

Call 8111 5576.

Parentage

Because child support can only be claimed from a parent of a child, disputes can arise about parentage. If necessary, DNA parentage testing can be used to resolve these disputes.

For legal advice about parentage issues, call **8111 5576.**

Child Support Assessment

Most child support assessments are calculated by Services Australia according to a **mathematical formula**. To prepare an accurate assessment, Services Australia needs current information about the parents' taxable incomes, the amount of care each parent provides for the children, and whether either parent supports other children.

For an estimate of child support, use the online child support estimator at processing.csa.gov.au/estimator/About.aspx.

Alternatively, the assessment can be based on a formal written **Child Support Agreement** which has been worked out between the parents.

Child Support Formula

The child support formula considers:

- **parental income** (based on adjusted taxable incomes)
- the **costs of children** (based on the combined income of the parents)
- the **level of care** provided by each parent.

Parents' incomes are important because, when added together, they are used to work out the theoretical costs of raising children in a family with that level of income. A 'Costs of Children' table has been created using Australian research, which also adjusts the costs for the number and ages of the children.

The costs of the children are shared between the parents:

- a. in proportion to their individual incomes, and
- b. after taking into account the amount of care each parent provides for the children.

Level of care

The amount of care that is provided for a child is an important part of the formula calculations. If a person provides care for a child for at least 14% of the time (at least 52 nights per year) they are considered to be meeting some of the costs of the child through the care they provide. The amount of care is converted to a percentage of the costs and is used in the formula calculations as indicated in the following table.

| Nights per year | CSA Terminology | Percentage of costs met through care |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 0-51 | Less than Regular Care | 0% |
| 52-127 | Regular Care | 24% |
| 128-237 | Shared Care | 25-75% (sliding scale) |
| 238-313 | Primary Care | 76% |
| 314-365 | Greater than Primary Care | 100% |

Services Australia (call 131 272) should be informed of any changes in care arrangements as soon as possible. Disputes can arise about the level of care used in the assessment.

How to change a Child Support Formula Assessment

There are several ways to change a formula assessment.

Estimate of income

If a parent's income is at least 15% lower than the income used in the assessment calculation, a parent can provide an up-to-date estimate of their income to Services Australia.

An Estimate of Income only affects **future** payments. Conditions apply and penalties can be added if a person significantly underestimates their income. Caution should be exercised in using this remedy.

Changing your assessment in special circumstances

Either parent can apply to change the assessment if they believe that special circumstances exist to justify a change, such as:

- High costs of contact
- Special needs of the child
- Agreed education costs (eg private school fees)
- Income or property of the child
- Income or property provided for the child
- High child care costs
- Special self support expenses
- Income, earning capacity, or property of either parent is not accurately reflected in the assessment
- Legal duty to support another person
- Responsibility to maintain other children living with you

If a change is needed for a period that is more than 18 months in the past, a court application is needed. A court can give permission to change an assessment that is more than 18 months old, but not more than 7 years old.

For legal advice about changing a child support assessment, **call 8111 5576**.

Child Support Agreements

As an alternative to the child support formula, some parents can reach a private agreement about child support payments. Child support agreements can include periodic payments, non-cash payments or lump sum payments. Services Australia can only collect periodic payments. The use of coercion or threats to secure an agreement can invalidate the agreement. **Get legal advice before signing a child support agreement.**

There are 2 types of child support agreements: Limited Child Support Agreements and Binding Child Support Agreements.

Limited Child Support Agreements

These agreements must be in writing, signed by both parents, and provide for at least as much child support as would be payable under a child support formula assessment. Either parent may end a Limited Agreement after 3 years, or sooner in some cases. It can also end by agreement or court order.

Binding Child Support Agreements

These agreements can be for less than, or more than, the amount payable under a child support formula assessment. Binding Child Support Agreements can also include lump sum payments, but special requirements apply.

Each parent must obtain independent legal advice. The agreement must include certificates from the lawyers stating that advice has been given about the effect of the agreement on the rights of the individuals, and the advantages and disadvantages of entering the agreement. To provide this advice, a lawyer would need information about the financial positions of both parents and have a sound knowledge of child support law.

Further, if a Binding Child Support Agreement provides for less child support than the amount payable under a formula assessment, the amount of Family Tax Benefit Part A will be calculated with reference to the child support amount that would have been payable under the formula assessment (not the amount provided for in the agreement).

Binding Child Support Agreements can only end by a further Binding Child Support Agreement or, in exceptional circumstances, by court order.

Adult children (18 years)

A child support assessment can be extended to the end of the school year if the child is attending secondary school when they turn 18.

A request to extend the assessment **must** be made to Services Australia **when the child is 17**, or the amount of Family Tax Benefit Part A payable for the adult child may be reduced.

Adult child maintenance (18 years and older)

When the child support assessment ends, the court can order that maintenance continue to be paid for adult children if they are unable to fully support themselves because they are completing their **education** or they have a **disability**. For more information, see our brochure '[Adult child maintenance](#)' or **call 8111 5576** for advice.



Our Child Support Helpline offers free legal advice about child support and maintenance. Call 8111 5576

Collection and enforcement

Services Australia can collect periodic payments of child support or maintenance payable under a child support assessment or a child support agreement. Court orders for adult child maintenance or spousal maintenance can also be registered for collection by Services Australia.

Services Australia has broad powers to collect child support debts including collecting from wages, intercepting tax refunds and collecting money from bank accounts.

Court action can also be taken by Services Australia or the payee to recover a child support debt. Late payment penalties can be charged if the child support debt is more than \$1000.

Parents can make their own private arrangements for the payment of child support. However, private collection is only recommended where the assessment is based on reliable incomes and the payer is likely to pay or has a good payment history. When child support is collected privately, **Centrelink will assume that the collecting parent is receiving their full child support entitlement** when calculating Family Tax Benefit Part A entitlements.

Non-agency payments

If Services Australia collects payments, a paying parent can seek credit for payments made to the payee or a third party, or other payments that were made in lieu of child support payments. This could include, for example, a payment made directly to a music teacher to cover a child's course fees. Many payments can only be credited if the receiving parent agrees that the payment was intended to be treated as a child support payment.

Some payments can still be credited as child support even where the payee does not agree. These include some education expenses, essential medical and dental treatment, and payments for the payee's accommodation or vehicle expenses. They are called Prescribed Non-Agency Payments and can only be credited if payments are collected by Services Australia and the paying parent has less than regular care (14%) of the child.

Centrelink - Family Tax Benefit Part A

Family Tax Benefit Part A and child support assessments are linked. Unless an exemption applies, the rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A is calculated by reference to a Child Support Formula Assessment determined by Services Australia.

To be entitled to claim Family Tax Benefit Part A for a child, a person must be caring for the child at least 35% of the time. Other than in rare cases where an exemption is granted, Centrelink will expect recipients of Family Tax Benefit Part A to commence a child support case at Services Australia. If parents choose not to commence a child support case, then Centrelink will reduce the Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child who does not have a child support case to the minimum rate.

A Centrelink social worker can grant an exemption from the need to take action to obtain child support in family violence cases. For legal advice about Family Tax Benefit Part A and child support, call our Child Support Helpline on **8111 5576**.

Overseas child support

Australia has arrangements with many countries for the collection of child support overseas. Arrangements with each country differ, and some countries have better collection arrangements than others. Disputes about parentage can be difficult to resolve if one of the parents lives overseas.

This is a complex area of law. If you are in this situation, you should get legal advice from a private lawyer or by calling our **Child Support Helpline** on **8111 5576**.



Property

Upon separation, you should **notify your bank** that you have separated and take steps to **protect yourself** in case your former partner incurs extra debts that may become your responsibility. You may wish to **close joint credit card accounts** and cancel any loan redraw facility that your former partner can access. You should **review your will** and **superannuation** or life insurance policies if your former partner is named as a beneficiary.

If your name is not on the title of the family home, it is important that you **see a lawyer quickly** to protect your interest in case your former partner tries to sell or otherwise dispose of the home. A **caveat** (a notice of claim) can be placed on the title by anyone who has an interest in the property.

If you leave the family home, it does not mean that you lose your entitlement to a fair share of the property. However, court proceedings are an expensive and time-consuming way to recover property.

If you do leave, take your **personal identification documents** (marriage certificate, birth certificate and passport) with you. If possible, obtain **financial records** such as bank statements, tax returns and superannuation statements to help with the division of assets. You can leave the family home and take your fair share of the household goods if it is likely to be difficult to collect them later.

We offer free legal advice about family law matters through the Legal Helpline. **Call 1300 366 424.**

If you and your former partner cannot agree on how to divide your property after genuine attempts (see 'Reaching agreement' on page 30), then either of you can ask the court to make a **property order**.

How the court decides

The court has wide powers to divide the property fairly. No two cases are the same and each partner should get independent legal advice on their case from a lawyer who specialises in family law property cases.

In resolving property disputes, the court:

- identifies the net value of the combined assets (the **property pool**)
- considers the **contributions** each person has made to the property pool
- considers each person's **future needs**, and
- reaches a decision that is **just** and **equitable**.

There is no rule that property should be equally divided according to a 50/50 formula. A partner will not necessarily get half of everything or be able to keep those things in their name that they paid for. It all depends on each partner's contribution, their needs and what is just and equitable.

Identifying the property pool

Property can include anything of financial value, including a house, land, money, superannuation, shares, cars, furniture, and small household items. It includes property held overseas. Generally, it is not worth going to court over items with only a small value.

Contributions

The court looks at the history of the relationship and determines how much each partner has contributed to buying, maintaining, and improving the property.

Direct contributions include:

- money contributed during the relationship, such as wages or income
- property owned when the relationship began
- gifts and inheritances
- work done on the property such as building or renovating
- effort put into building up and running a business.

The efforts of a partner who worked in the home looking after the children and doing the housekeeping are considered **indirect contributions** to the property. A homemaker may be entitled to a share of the property even though they have not paid any money towards it or earned any income during the relationship.

In many cases, the indirect contributions of the homemaker are equal to the direct contributions of the income earner. This may not be the case where the relationship was short or the direct contributions of one partner are much larger than the contributions of the other partner.

Future needs

The court can also decide whether a greater share of the property should be given to the partner who has the greater need in the future. The court will consider:

- the age and health of both partners
- the ability of each partner to support themselves in the future
- whether either partner is supporting a dependent, such as a child
- whether a partner is supported by someone else, such as a new partner or parents.

If one parent has the sole responsibility for the day-to-day care of the children, a claim may be made for a greater share of the property, but this may be balanced by the payment of child support by the other parent. As a guide, the court is likely to award more to one partner where the other has access to greater financial resources. This is a complex area of law and you should get legal advice.

The family home

Under the Family Law Act, a partner may be entitled to share in the family home or other assets even if they did not pay any money towards them and they are held in the other partner's name. The court will consider indirect financial contributions (such as paying bills), non-financial contributions including renovations on the house, contributions as a homemaker and parent, and each partner's future needs.

If there is enough other property, the court may grant one partner the family home, especially if that partner is looking after the children. However, if there is no other way of giving each partner their fair share, such as one partner buying the other out, the house must be sold.

The transfer of real estate and motor vehicles between former partners following their separation is usually exempt from stamp duty. **Get legal advice** about the documents required for a stamp duty exemption.

Superannuation

Superannuation is treated as property for the purposes of property settlement. You will need to gather accurate information about the value of your superannuation fund(s) and your former partner's. To do this you will need to complete the Superannuation Information Form and Declaration, available from the court.

Superannuation funds usually charge fees to provide the information. They do not notify the superannuation holder that they are giving out the information.

Any agreement, or court order, about superannuation can split the superannuation into separate policies or it can 'flag' part of the superannuation payment to go to another person when the policy becomes payable. Superannuation can be a major asset in the division of property and the law in this area is complex. **Get legal advice.**

Reaching agreement

You are required to make a genuine attempt to reach an agreement about property settlement before making an application to the court. This can save unnecessary expense, delay and worry of a court case.

You may be able to reach an agreement between yourselves through the online service www.amica.gov.au, via Family Dispute Resolution or with the assistance of a lawyer. Legal aid funding may be granted for lawyer-assisted Family Dispute Resolution in some circumstances. See 'Reaching agreement' on page 2 for more information.

If you do not have a lawyer, you should at least get legal advice from a lawyer before signing an agreement. This should not be the same lawyer representing your former partner.

A lawyer will make sure you understand your rights and check that the agreement is legal and fair. The agreement should be similar to what the court would decide by identifying the property pool, considering your contributions and future needs and then making sure that the agreed division is just and equitable.

If you reach an agreement with your former partner about dividing the property, you should apply to court for **consent orders** or enter into a **binding financial agreement**. This may prevent future claims about property. If you cannot reach an agreement, you will need to apply to the court. Time limits apply (see page 32).

Consent orders

To obtain consent orders, parties need to file an Application for Consent Orders together with a Consent Minute of Order. A Consent Order Kit is available on the court's website at www.fcfcqa.gov.au. There is a fee of \$195 (as at 1 July 2023). This may be waived for concessions card holders.

Binding financial agreements

You and your partner can make an agreement at any time about how your property and financial resources will be divided if you separate. These agreements are evidence of your intention at the time you signed the agreement, but they may not be relevant many years later and the court may not agree with

what they say. An agreement can also be made after you have separated.

Before entering into such an agreement, you should get **independent legal advice** about the content and effect of the agreement. To be enforceable, agreements must be **in writing** and **signed by both partners**. Each partner must have had independent legal advice and each partner's lawyer must signed the agreement.

The court may set aside (declare invalid) or vary an agreement or order in some circumstances, such as if there has not been full disclosure, or there has been fraud, duress, or other unfair conduct. An agreement or order may also be set aside if there has been a significant change in circumstances relating to a child of the relationship such that hardship would be caused if it were not set aside.

Time limits

Get legal advice about property division as soon as possible following separation. You may apply to the court for property division at any time from separation but **no later than 12 months after a divorce** becomes final.

For de facto couples, it is **no later than 2 years after the date of separation**. See 'De facto relationships and property' on page 34 for more information about de facto relationships. A late application may only be made with the court's consent.

Maintenance

To obtain a court order for maintenance under the Family Law Act, you will generally need to prove that you are unable to work or support yourself properly because of old age or sickness, your childcare responsibilities or some other reason. You also need to show that your former partner is able to afford the maintenance.

Maintenance claims can be resolved formally at the same time as property settlement, either by court order or binding financial agreement. A payment can be made in a lump sum or by periodic payments. An order for periodic payments of maintenance can be registered for collection with Services Australia.

Time limits apply to maintenance claims.

Get legal advice as soon as you can.

A de facto relationship recognised by law is where 2 people **live together as a couple on a genuine domestic basis**, but are not married or related by family.

De facto relationships and property

De facto partners who have separated can apply to the court for property settlement or maintenance under the Family Law Act if:

- the de facto relationship existed for at least **2 years**, or
- there is a **child** of the relationship, or
- the relationship was **registered** under a State or Territory law, or
- one of the partners has made **substantial financial or non-financial contributions** to property as homemaker or parent and **serious injustice would result** if an order was not made.

An application for property settlement must be made within **2 years** of the relationship ending. In exceptional circumstances, the court may allow an application after 2 years.

Get legal advice immediately following your separation. This will help protect your rights and interests and allow time to try to reach an agreement with your former partner.

In deciding how property should be divided and whether maintenance should be paid in the separation of a de facto couple, the court will consider the same factors and apply the same principles as for married couples.

Certified Domestic Partnership Agreements

If a de facto couple made a certified domestic partnership agreement under South Australian law that was in force before 1 July 2010, that agreement may be taken to be a **binding financial agreement** under the Family Law Act. However, only those parts of the agreement that relate to property, financial resources of the parties, and maintenance are enforceable.

For relationships not covered by the Family Law Act or other South Australian legislation, rights to property on the breakdown of a relationship are governed by the common law rules of property, trusts and contract. The law in this area is complex and anyone who wants to make a claim should **get legal advice**.



Family violence

Family violence includes physical violence, sexual violence, property damage, threats, emotional and psychological abuse, financial control, and social isolation. You can take action to stop it.

Reporting violence

If there has been family violence, **call the police on 131 444.**

The police can:

- arrest the offender
- search for and remove weapons
- charge the offender with a criminal offence
- immediately issue an intervention order (if the offender is present or in custody)
- apply to the court for an intervention order on your behalf.

The police are there to protect you and your children. There are special police units trained to handle family violence. Ask to speak to a police officer from the Family Violence Investigation Section.

You can also seek help from a domestic violence service, the Legal Services Commission, the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service or the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation. See 'Services' on page 43.

Applying for an intervention order

If you are experiencing family violence, ask the police to issue an intervention order or apply for an intervention order at the Magistrates Court. You do not have to show you have been physically hurt to get help.

An intervention order can stop a person from entering certain premises (even if this is a house they own or where you work), coming within a certain distance of whoever is protected by the order, damaging or taking personal property, or contacting, harassing, threatening or intimidating those protected by the order. The court can also order the return of property or allow use of the property at certain times.

If the police will not apply for an order, you can apply yourself or with the help of a lawyer. The **Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service (WDVCAS)** is a specialist statewide legal service that helps women affected by domestic or family violence apply for intervention orders. Call **1800 246 642.**

Contact with children

If you apply for an intervention order, you must tell the court about any existing parenting orders that allow for contact with your former partner for the purpose of organising handover of children. In some circumstances, the court may suspend or change those orders.

Defending an intervention order

The person against whom an intervention order is made is called the **respondent**.

A respondent can dispute an intervention order or its conditions, but an order may be made in the meantime. A respondent should not try to contact their children if an intervention order stops them. **Disobeying an intervention order is a crime with serious penalties.**

If a respondent thinks an intervention order does not make adequate arrangements for parenting their children, they may apply for a parenting order from the Family Law Court. Once a respondent has a parenting order from the Family Law Court, this overrides the intervention order.

For more information, see our publications [‘Applying for an intervention order’](#) and [‘When there is an intervention order against you’](#).

Protection at court hearings

There are procedures to keep you **safe** at court and to resolve the case as quickly as possible. The court may make special arrangements for you to give evidence. You may be able to give evidence by video. You may be permitted to have a relative or friend with you for emotional support. The court may exclude the respondent from the courtroom during your evidence.

The respondent is not allowed to cross-examine you (ask you questions about your evidence). See ‘Representing yourself in court’ on page 5 for more information about similar protections in the Family Law Court.

Family law injunction

A party can apply for an injunction as part of a family law case. An **injunction** is a court order to stop a person from doing something. This might be removing children from the State, assaulting children or a former partner, going into the home, harassing the children or former partner, or selling or damaging family property.

However, SA Police cannot enforce a family law injunction. It can only be enforced through the Family Law Court. An intervention order from the Magistrates Court may therefore be more effective in providing protection from a violent situation. SA Police can respond to any breaches and enforce an intervention order without delay.

Tenancies

If you are experiencing family violence or have an intervention order, and you are co-tenants with the respondent, you may apply to the **South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT)** for an order that you remain in the tenancy as the sole tenant (if you can afford the rent) or to remove your name from the tenancy. **WDVCAS** may be able to assist. **Call 1800 246 642.**

Changing names

Changing your child's name

You can apply to register a change of name for a child through **Consumer and Business Services**. Usually, both parents must agree to allow a change of name for a child. The child must also consent if capable of understanding what it means to change their name.

If one parent does not agree, the other parent may seek an order providing for the change of name through existing Family Law Court proceedings.

The other way is to apply for an order from the **South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT)**. The other parent can tell SACAT why the child's name should not be changed. SACAT will then determine whether a change of name will be in the child's best interests.

Even where SACAT makes an order authorising the change of name of a child, the change must still be registered with Consumer and Business Services to be effective. See 'Services' on page 44.

Changing your own name

Generally, if you are 18 or older, you may have any name you choose so long as it is not offensive or for fraudulent or dishonest purposes. If you wish to formally change your name (other than through marriage or separation), you can apply through Consumer and Business Services.

You are not required to change your name if you marry or separate. If you do decide to change your name due to marriage or separation after marriage, you do not have to register this change. If you have changed your name at marriage and wish to go back to your birth name, you may need to produce your birth and marriage certificates to show that you are the same person.

Wills

A will is a legal document that sets out who you want to inherit your **estate** (possessions and property) when you die.

If you die without a valid will, your property is distributed to your family (next of kin). If there is no family (including distant relations), then your property goes to the Government.

Marriage and registered relationships

If you marry (or remarry) or enter a registered relationship, your will is automatically **revoked** (cancelled) unless it clearly shows you were planning this marriage or registered relationship when you made it. Similarly, when you get a divorce or your registered relationship ends, any gift or power left to your former partner is cancelled unless your will specifically states that you do not want this to happen.

If you separate from your partner but do not get a divorce or formally end a registered relationship, you may need to change your will so that it accurately reflects your wishes. An existing will is not automatically revoked by separation. It is therefore a good idea to make a new will.

Unregistered de facto relationships

If you are in a de facto relationship that is not registered, you should make a will if you want to make sure that your partner will receive your property upon your death.

If you die without a will, your partner may be entitled to the same rights as between married couples and those in registered relationships, but may need a declaration from a court first.

Your partner could seek a declaration if:

- you were together for 3 years, or for periods totalling 3 years over a 4 year period, or
- you had a child together, or
- you were living together as a couple on a genuine domestic basis and the interests of justice require that a declaration be made.

This application is made under the Family Relationships Act 1975 (SA), which sets out what a court must consider when making its decision.

Providing for children

If you are making a will, get legal advice about your obligations to provide for your children upon your death. If your children normally live with you, you can say in your will who you would like to care for them after your death. Make sure that the person you name is ready and willing to do so. There is no way to guarantee that your wishes will be followed, or to prevent a person from applying for a parenting order after your death. The court will consider the wishes of the deceased parent but must make an order in the best interests of the children.

A will is an important legal document. It is best to **get legal advice** and have your will prepared professionally by a lawyer.

Services

Legal Services Commission SA

Legal advice and legal aid

Legal Helpline

(free legal advice and information)

Call 1300 366 424 (local call)

www.lsc.sa.gov.au

www.lawhandbook.sa.gov.au

Appointments for legal advice can be made through the **Legal Helpline** at these offices:

Adelaide

159 Gawler Place
Adelaide SA 5000

Elizabeth

Suite 2 Windsor Building
1 Windsor Square
(off Playford Boulevard)
Elizabeth Shopping Centre
Elizabeth SA 5112

Noarlunga

Noarlunga House
Ramsay Place
Noarlunga Centre SA 5168

Port Adelaide

263 St Vincent Street
Port Adelaide SA 5015

Port Augusta

34 Flinders Terrace
Port Augusta SA 5700

Whyalla

17A Forsyth Street
Whyalla SA 5600

Family Advocacy and Support Service

Reception located on the ground floor of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia at 3 Angas Street, Adelaide.

Call 8111 5300

Community legal centres

Northern Community Legal Service

26 John Street
Salisbury SA 5108
Call 8281 6911

Community Justice Centres SA

Call 8384 5222

40 Beach Road
Christies Beach SA 5165

43B Commercial Street West
Mount Gambier SA 5290

9 Kay Avenue
Berri SA 5343

Uniting Communities Law Centre

43 Franklin Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Call 8202 5960

Westside Community Lawyers

Port Adelaide Office

171 Commercial Road
Port Adelaide SA 5015
Call 8340 9009

Port Pirie Office

72 Ellen Street
Port Pirie SA 5540
Call 8340 9009

Women's Legal Service

Level 7, 45 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

For advice, call
8231 8929 or 1800 816 349 (toll free)

Other legal advice services

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

Head Office
321 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000

For advice, call
8113 3777 or 1800 643 222

Family Violence Legal Services Aboriginal Corporation

Port Augusta
Call 1800 111 052

Ceduna
Call 1800 839 059

Port Lincoln
Call 1800 309 912

The Law Society of South Australia

Level 10, 178 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000
20 minute interviews by appointment, \$35 fee
Call 8229 0200
www.lawsocietysa.asn.au

Child support help

Legal Services Commission SA

Child Support Help
Call 8111 5576 or 1300 366 424

Services Australia

Call 131 272 or 1800 241 272
www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/separated-parents

Family Dispute Resolution services

**Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) Unit
Legal Services Commission SA**

159 Gawler Place Adelaide 5000
Call 8111 5534

Family Relationship Centres

For full details of services in city and country areas call 1800 050 321 or visit www.familyrelationships.gov.au

Adelaide

Call 8223 4566

Noarlunga/Marion/Aldinga Beach

Call 8202 5200

Port Adelaide

Call 8340 2022

Salisbury

Call 8250 6600

Elizabeth

Call 8255 3323

Berri

Call 8582 4122

Mt Gambier

Call 8721 3500 or 1800 880 913

Port Augusta

Call 8641 0432

Information services

Family Relationship Advice Line

Call 1800 050 321

Family Relationships Online

www.familyrelationships.gov.au

MensLine Australia

Call 1300 78 99 78

www.mensline.org.au

Women's Information Service

101 Grenfell Street

Adelaide SA 5000

Call 8303 0590 or 1800 188 158

9 am - 5 pm weekdays

Other family services

Centacare

www.centacare.org.au

Relationships Australia

www.rasa.org.au

Anglicare

www.anglicare-sa.org.au

Children's handover services

Adelaide

Call 8724 5400

Berri

Call 8582 4122

Campbelltown

Call 8223 4566

Hindmarsh

Call 8245 8100

Noarlunga and Mt Barker

Call 8392 3180

Mount Gambier, Naracoorte and Millicent

Call 8721 3500

Elizabeth

Call 8255 3323

Port Augusta

Call 8649 0800

Whyalla

Call 8649 0800

Courts

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

Roma Mitchell Building
Commonwealth Law Courts
3 Angas Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Call 1300 352 000

www.fcfoa.gov.au

Magistrates Court

Central Switchboard

Call 8204 2444

Family violence services

Police Attendance (non-urgent)

Call 131 444

Police Family Investigation Units

Eastern Adelaide:

Call 7322 4890

Northern Adelaide:

Call 8207 9381

Western Adelaide:

Call 8207 6413

Southern Adelaide:

Call 8392 9172

1800 RESPECT

Call 1800 737 732

24 Hour Domestic Violence Crisis Line

Call 1800 800 098

Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service

Call 1800 246 642

Flinders Medical Centre

24 Hour Child Protection Unit

Call 8204 5458 or 8204 5611 (after hours)

Women's and Children's Hospital

24 Hour Child Protection Unit

Call 8161 7346 or 8161 7000 (after hours)

24 Hour Child Abuse Report Line

Call 131 478

Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service

Call 1800 817 421 (toll free)

Migrant Women's Support Program

Call 8152 9260

Victims of Crime SA

Call 8204 9635

Other agencies

Consumer and Business Services

4 - 6 Chesser Street

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