



## **Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel Information**

The Legal Services Commission holds Family Dispute Resolution conferences chaired by an independent family dispute resolution practitioner. To be appointed as the chair of a family dispute resolution conference a practitioner must be a member of the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel.

The matters that may be the subject of a family dispute resolution conference include parenting matters, child support matters and property settlement matters where at least one party has received a grant of legal aid from the Commission. The matters may be pre-litigation or referred to the service by the Family Law Courts.

The number and nature of family dispute resolution practitioners appointed to the Chairperson Panel will be determined by the Legal Services Commission, taking into account—

- a) the number of conferences being convened by the Legal Services Commission; and
- b) the desirability of each chairperson conducting a reasonable number of conferences; and
- c) the specialist skills of the chairpersons currently on the panel; and
- d) the inclusion of a diversity of backgrounds and experience.

### **Minimum requirements for consideration for inclusion on Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel**

To be considered for inclusion on the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel a practitioner must have—

- a) accreditation as a family dispute resolution practitioner pursuant to the *Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner) Regulations 2008*;
- b) a law degree;
- c) a minimum of five years recent experience in family law as a barrister or solicitor;
- d) a National Police Certificate provided by South Australia Police;
- e) a current DHS *Working with Children Check*.

Desirable attributes include–

- a) experience as a family dispute resolution practitioner;
- b) qualification as an Arbitrator (Family Law);
- c) NMAS Accreditation;
- d) experience in conducting mediation, conciliation or arbitration conferences whether in person, by telephone or online;
- e) previous attendance as a solicitor at family dispute resolution conferences at the Legal Services Commission of South Australia.

### **Application for inclusion on the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel**

An application for inclusion on the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel must be made on the attached form and submitted to the Legal Services Commission, together with all required documentation.

An applicant may be asked to attend an interview at the Legal Services Commission.

If an applicant is refused inclusion on the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel the Director must provide written reasons for refusal.

### **Appeal to the Commission**

If a family dispute resolution practitioner receives written notice–

- a) refusing the practitioner's application for inclusion on the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel; or
- b) removing the practitioner from the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel,

the practitioner may, within one month of receiving the notice, appeal in writing to the Commission against the decision.

A practitioner refused inclusion on the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel may, six months from the date of the notice of refusal, reapply for inclusion on the Panel.



**APPLICATION FOR INCLUSION ON THE FAMILY DISPUTE  
RESOLUTION CHAIRPERSON PANEL OF THE LEGAL SERVICES  
COMMISSION**

Name:.....

Business Name: .....

Business Address (postal).....

.....

.....

Telephone: ..... (m).....

DX.....Fax.....

Email.....

ABN..... GST Registered ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you been the subject of a bankruptcy event, a disciplinary proceeding (under the *Legal Practitioners Act 1981* or otherwise), had your Family Dispute Resolution accreditation cancelled or suspended or been charged with a criminal offence (other than a minor traffic offence)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide details (*this information will be treated confidentially and only be used for the purposes for which it has been requested.*)

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☐ Yes (please attach supporting documentation) ☐ No

☐ Yes (please attach a copy of the certificate) ☐ No

☐ Yes (please attach a copy of the certificate) ☐ No

☐ Yes (please attach a copy) ☐ No

☐ Yes      ☐ No

☐ Yes      ☐ No

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To be included on the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel you must accept the following:

I,..... (full name) agree to—

- comply with the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel Agreement and Practice Standards;
- renew my DHS *Working with Children Check* every five years, and on renewal provide a copy to the Legal Services Commission; and
- renew my National Police Certificate every three years, and on renewal provide a copy of the certificate to the Legal Services Commission.

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

The Legal Services Commission reserves the right to seek further information from you before finally determining your application.

Please forward this application, with–

- a copy of your Curriculum Vitae, including three referees;
- a copy of your accreditation as a Family Dispute Resolution practitioner;
- a copy of your law degree;
- a signed Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel Agreement;
- a copy of your National Police Certificate provided by South Australia Police;
- a copy of your DHS *Working with Children Check*;
- a copy of your letterhead which must include an ABN;
- a completed EFT form,

to–

Panels  
Legal Services Commission of South Australia  
PO Box 1718  
Adelaide SA 5001

or by email to–

[panels@lsc.sa.gov.au](mailto:panels@lsc.sa.gov.au)