

CatholicCare

Diocese of Broken Bay

FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION & PROPERTY MEDIATION SERVICES



Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) is a structured process which helps parents discuss issues in a safe environment and come to workable agreements for the future in the best interests of their children.

The Family Law Act requires separating parents to make a genuine effort to resolve their parenting issues at FDR before they apply to the court for a Parenting Order. If you are unable to reach an agreement at FDR and your matter involves your children, you will need a S60I Certificate from a Mediator in order to proceed to court.

Our Mediators are accredited and registered with the Attorney General's Department and have considerable experience in family matters.



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM FDR

Initially each party attends a private assessment session with a Mediator to decide if FDR is suitable and to prepare them for the joint session. At the joint session, the Mediators will ensure that each parent has the opportunity to explore their concerns and help them develop workable options.

Common topics include:

- Living arrangements for children
- Important decisions regarding health, education and culture
- Communication
- Children's expenses
- Contact with grandparents.

CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay provides both solo and co-mediation models of FDR. Having two Mediators ensures all issues are thoroughly covered.

Fees

Fees are reasonable and are discussed at intake. We will not refuse a service in cases of genuine financial hardship. Refer to the Fees Schedule for further details.

Privacy

All information held is kept in accordance with the Privacy Amendment Act (Private Sector) 2000 and the provisions of the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth).



PROPERTY MEDIATION

Property mediation is a structured voluntary process which helps separating couples negotiate their financial and property issues in a safe environment and come to an agreement which both parties can live with.

Initially each party attends a private assessment with a Mediator to decide if mediation is suitable and prepare them for the joint session. At the joint session, each party must provide full disclosure regarding their assets, liabilities and financial resources.

Common topics include:

- What happens to the family home and any investment properties?
- How will the superannuation be divided?
- What will happen to any shares or other investments?
- How will a business be taken into account?
- How will the contents of the family home be divided?

Legal advice

Whilst some Mediators have legal backgrounds, CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay does not provide legal advice. Your Mediator will recommend that you each obtain legal/financial advice from an experienced family law professional at each stage of the mediation process so that you can negotiate in an informed manner.

Fees

Fees are reasonable and are discussed at intake. Refer to the Fees Schedule for further details.



OTHER FDR SUPPORT SERVICES

CHILD INCLUSIVE PRACTICE (CIP)

Child Inclusive Practice (CIP) is a strategic extension of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which allows the children to have their experiences considered thoughtfully by their parents and the Mediator during an FDR session. It is supported by the Family Law Act 1975 and the Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners Regulations 2008). CIP is an optional and non-legal service and session details are not admissible in court.

This process provides an opportunity for children to talk about their situation and how they are feeling with a trained Child Consultant in a safe environment. This allows children to express their concerns, worries, desires and ideas about how things might work. This is not intended to be a forum for children to make decisions, nor a traditional counselling session, rather a process that allows your children's voices to be heard.

The Child Consultant gives feedback during an FDR mediation session, that can assist parental decisions in developing a parenting plan that supports the developmental needs of their child.

CIP encourages parents to develop an alliance to ensure that their children continue to have a secure emotional base from which to grow and thrive.

Fees

Fees for CIP are charged separately.

OTHER FDR SUPPORT SERVICES



CONFLICT COACHING

Conflict coaching is a structured process which helps people on a one-on-one basis, to develop their skills and better manage their interpersonal conflict. It can be a useful adjunct to FDR to help one or both parties prepare for the joint session, help overcome stand-offs with the other party and help maintain new patterns of communication.

Discuss with your Mediator whether a session with a Conflict Coach could be useful for you.

Fees

Fees for conflict coaching are charged at the same rate as for FDR.



KEEPING KIDS IN MIND GROUP PROGRAM (KKIM)

KKIM is an intensive 5 week course for separated parents experiencing medium to high levels of entrenched conflict. It aims to help parents understand the effects of conflict on their children and find better ways to reduce conflict and emotionally support their children. One-on-one assistance may also be provided by our *KKIM* case managers.

Fees

Please contact us for details.

Other CatholicCare Support Services

CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay also provides a range of other services across our Family Centres. Your Mediator may refer you to programs to help support your family such as counselling, family support, disability support, youth services and more.



Serving in justice & love

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Waitara Family Centre

29 Yardley Avenue, Waitara NSW 2077

P: (02) 9488 2400

E: mediation@catholiccaredbb.org.au

W: catholiccaredbb.org.au

Appointments can also be held at our Naremburn and Brookvale Family Centres. All bookings are to be made via our Waitara Family Centre.

Naremburn Family Centre

40 Merrenburn Avenue, Naremburn NSW 2065

Northern Beaches Family Centre

116/20 Dale Street, Brookvale NSW 2100