



Family Dispute Resolution

Family Dispute Resolution is a mediation process that can help families after separation. Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners provide a safe environment for discussion and decision making for parents to work out the best arrangements for their children. Decisions about property and financial matters can also be made through this process.

What is the process?

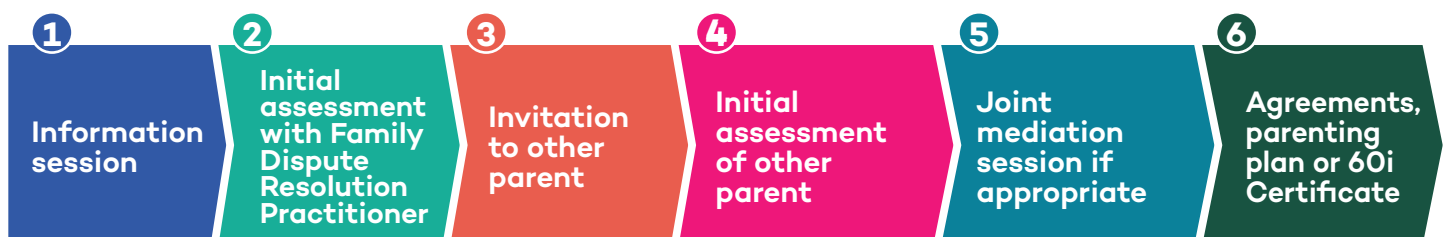
We encourage those wanting to begin the Family Dispute Resolution process by contacting our team at the Bankstown Family Relationship Centre, either in-person or via the phone.

After this, an individual appointment with a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (mediator) is arranged. The Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner will find out about your family situation and needs, provide information and referrals, and explain the process.

The Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner will contact the other parent, inviting them to also attend an individual appointment.

If the Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner assesses that the matter is suitable for further Family Dispute Resolution, arrangements will be made for mediation with all parents. Both parents are encouraged to make a genuine effort to try to resolve the dispute with the help of the Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners.

If Family Dispute Resolution is not suitable, or either parent decides not to participate further, the Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner will talk to you about further options. A Section 60I certificate can be issued as required.





What is the role of Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner?

Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners will help both parents to discuss issues, look at options, and work out how best to reach agreement. They are impartial, will not take sides, and will work with parents to consider the best interests of children in any decisions being made.

All Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners are qualified professionals, accredited in accordance with Family Law requirements.

Are there costs?

The initial interview appointments are free. Fees may apply to joint sessions for parenting or property matters, based on an income-based scale — please see our fees policy.

What happens after Family Dispute Resolution?

Parenting agreements (verbal or written) or parenting plans (written, signed and dated) may be reached through Family Dispute Resolution. You may also reach agreement regarding property and financial matters.

Parents can apply to the court to have their agreement made into a legally binding consent order (see more information in the Parenting Plan fact sheet).

If you have not reached full agreement during the Family Dispute Resolution process, the Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner will discuss other options with you. These may include seeking further legal advice, or requesting a Section 60I certificate so that you can make an application in the court.

Bankstown Family Relationship Centre can also provide further support during and after Family Dispute Resolution, through services such as ongoing support from post-separation case managers, counselling, or post-separation parenting education courses.

Contact us by calling 13 18 19 or visit catholiccare.org/fdr