

How We Can Help

Our lawyers can:

- Give legal advice;
- Explain processes, such as mediation, family dispute resolution and Court;
- Write letters (negotiate);
- Go to Family Dispute Resolution with you;
- Draft parenting plans or parenting orders;
- Draft Court paperwork; and
- Represent you in Court.

Our Client Support Officers can:

- Give you non-legal information;
- Go to appointments with you;
- Link you with other services, such as mediation, counselling and Indigenous Family Liaison Officers at the Court; and
- Support you at Court.



The information in this brochure is general information only. It is best to see one of our lawyers for legal advice about your individual circumstances.



Contact Us



<https://www.fvlsac.org.au/>



<https://www.facebook.com/FVLSAC>

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Acknowledgment to Country

Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands across Australia and particularly the traditional owners in Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Ceduna and Adelaide, the lands on which the FVLSAC offices are situated. We pay our deep respects to Elders past, present and future.

Kids & Family Law



Family Violence Legal Service
Aboriginal Corporation (SA)



Family Law

Our service can give legal advice and representation in family law matters.

Family law matters we can help with include:

- Children's issues – if you can't agree on things with the other parent or carers
- Separation and divorce
- Some property settlement matters
- Making or changing parenting plans or parenting (Court) orders
- Dispute Resolution (mediation)
- Location and recovery orders

We can help:

- Parents - such as if you are girlfriend or boyfriend, a same sex couple or married;
- Kin Carers - such as Grandparents, Aunties or Uncles, sister or brother (over 18 years); and
- Adults that are worried about the care and safety of a child.



If you are worried DCP might get involved with your family, you should get legal advice as soon as possible. There might be better ways to make sure the kids are safe. For example, going to the Federal Circuit and Family Court before DCP get involved.

The Courts

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia for South Australia is based in Adelaide. If you live in the country, you can go to Court on Teams (video link).

The Federal Circuit and Family Court has a specialised Indigenous Court List for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families going through Court.

The Court process for families in the Indigenous List is less formal.

Families can be supported by an Indigenous Family Liaison Officer to give information, support and understand what is happening.

Indigenous Family Liaison Officers can sit in Court with you or be on a Teams (video link) with you.



<https://www.fccoa.gov.au>



Best Interests of the Kids

When working out the plan for your kids, you must think about what is in their best interests.

If you end up going to Court, the best interests of the kids is what the Court will think about when they make a decision.

Best interests of the kids means thinking about -

- What is best for them?
- How to keep the kids safe?
- Has there been any family violence?
- How safe are the people that care for them?
- How safe are the people that spend time with them?
- How well can each parent look after the kids?
- What relationships they have with important people (e.g. Grandparents, sisters and/or brothers)?
- What do the kids need to grow and learn?
- What do the kids need to be healthy and happy? and
- What do the kids want?

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids, the Court will also think about how the kids can:

- connect to family; and
- be a part of their culture.