



## Advantages in Attending Family Dispute Resolution

- An opportunity to reach your own agreements
- A cost-effective way of resolving the issues in dispute (financially and emotionally)
- A quicker process than court involvement
- Confidentiality is protected
- A respectful process

From 1 July 2006 changes to the Family Law system made Family Dispute Resolution a requirement before you can apply to the court for Parenting Orders, including applications seeking changes to existing Parenting Orders.

There are however some exceptions to this. It is recommended to seek legal advice if you believe exceptions may apply.

## Fee for Service

Centacare Family Dispute Resolution Service is partly funded by the Federal Government. As this funding does not cover all costs, a fee may be charged. A schedule of fees is available on the website or please contact Centacare.



FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
CARER SUPPORT, DISABILITY  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS

## Family Dispute Resolution

Adelaide, 45 Wakefield Street | T 8215 6700  
Mount Gambier, 13 Penola Road | T 8303 6630  
Murray Bridge, Murray Bridge Marketplace | T 8215 6320  
Elizabeth Park, The Centa, 34 Yorktown Road | T 8412 9570

[fdr@centacare.org.au](mailto:fdr@centacare.org.au)  
[www.centacare.org.au](http://www.centacare.org.au)

A Child Safe Organisation  
Centacare has an ongoing commitment to building and maintaining a Child Safe Organisation.



Centacare welcomes people who are intersex, gender diverse and of all sexualities.



### Statement regarding the traditional owners of the land

For thousands of years Aboriginal people have walked on this land, in their country. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives. We acknowledge the Aboriginal people and their stewardship and spiritual connection with their lands.



Centacare is nationally accredited against the Quality Improvement Council (QIC), Australian Health and Community Services Standards.



Centacare

# Family Dispute Resolution

Solutions for families living separately and their children



## Family Dispute Resolution (FDR)

Parents and children who are living apart often have to deal with the stress of separation as well as making difficult decisions about parenting/care arrangements and/or division of property.

Family Dispute Resolution is an alternative way of discussing the issues following separation that aims to avoid the financial and emotional costs of becoming involved in legal actions.

An accredited, qualified Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP) guides the process of discussion, supports both parents and family members, and remains impartial to the outcomes while facilitating that those involved reach their own agreements.

We deliver responsive, flexible and effective mediation services to the SA community without regard to religion, race, culture, sexuality, gender identity or economic circumstance.

## Families and Children

FDRPs assist parents and families to reach a resolution that is safe and in the best interest of their children. This can be about their living arrangements, general care needs, schooling or other issues related to the children.

Grandparents and other significant parties may also use the service for children whose parents have separated.

## Child Inclusive Practice

Children's voices are often lost in between disputes among parents. The Child Inclusive Service at Centacare can provide a process where the voice of the children can be heard by parents in a safe and supported way.

This process requires consent of both parents, children and the FDRP. The Child Consultant will then undertake the parent interviews, confidential chat with the children targeting their feelings and needs about the separation at this point in time. The Child Consultant's feedback to the parents will inform the discussions about future care arrangements.

## Post-Separation Parenting

Parents and Grandparents can attend education seminars to hear the latest, evidenced based research about how separation can effect children and what parents can do to support themselves and their children.

## Property

FDR is an efficient and cost-effective way to gather the information to identify the total asset and liability pool from a relationship. Individuals are supported in sharing proposals and manage a fair and equitable division of the pool. Centacare uses the same 4-step process in property settlement as the Family Law Courts.

## Safety

Centacare takes the safety of families very seriously. Please discuss any safety concerns with your FDRP.

## Confidentiality

Confidentiality and privacy are of the utmost importance in FDR services. All FDRPs and Child Consultants must work within the Family Law Act (FLA) 1975 – Section 10J, where communications made in FDR are not able to be disclosed and are inadmissible in court unless required or authorised under the FLA.

Practitioners are required to disclose information to appropriate authorities where suspicions of safety to a person or property are revealed. Under section 67za, information disclosed indicating reasonable grounds of suspicion that a child/ren has been or is at risk of being abused must also be reported.