



Legal Aid WA is a leading provider of Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) in Western Australia.

FDR is sometimes called conferencing or mediation. It is a type of meeting run by experienced mediators or FDR practitioners who help separated families try to reach agreement about property and children's issues.

Legal Aid WA's conferences offer you and your ex-partner, or another person involved in the case, with an opportunity to find solutions to your family law issues.



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What's new at Legal Aid WA?

Strength to Strength is a new conferencing program run by Legal Aid WA's Dispute Resolution Unit.

Strength to Strength conferences are designed to give families **experiencing disadvantage**, and who have a current case in the Family Court of WA, an opportunity to work together to achieve a safe and agreed outcome for their family in a respectful way.

Some examples of reasons why a family may be experiencing disadvantage include family violence, mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependence, literacy difficulties or where English is spoken as second language.

What are the benefits of Strength to Strength conferencing?

The benefits of Strength to Strength conferencing include:

- **The program is free** – it is free to take part, this includes free legal advice and representation at the conference.
- **Legal advice and representation** – you will be granted Legal Aid for a lawyer to give you legal advice before the conference and represent you at the conference. Your ex-partner will also be given a grant of Legal Aid for a lawyer to give them legal advice and represent them at the conference. This means you will each have a lawyer helping you.
- **Social worker help** - a social worker may be available to help your family as part of the conference process. This will depend on what the issues are in your case.

How can I connect with Strength to Strength conferencing?

The Family Court of WA can refer families who have a current court case to Strength to Strength conferencing. If you have a current court case you can also be referred by a community support service or a lawyer. You can also contact Legal Aid WA yourself to find out if your case is suitable for the program.

To find out if you are eligible for the program, you can:

- visit the Duty Lawyer Service at the Family Court of WA
- visit the Legal Aid WA Office at Level 1, 32 St Georges Terrace, Perth
- call the Legal Aid WA Dispute Resolution Unit on (08) 9261 6488
- call the Infoline on 1300 650 579
- email: strengthtostrength@legalaid.wa.gov.au



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