



Family Advocacy Support Services



Family Advocacy and Support Services

This fact sheet has information about the Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS).

What is FASS?

FASS stands for the Family Advocacy and Support Services.

It is a free specialist family violence service that provides legal and social support services to people with a family law problem who are affected by family violence.

Who provides FASS?

FASS legal services are provided by duty lawyers and paralegals from Legal Aid WA and community legal centres.

FASS social support is provided by agencies that specialise in family violence.



FASS clients often include mothers, fathers, grandparents and other extended family members.



“FASS operates from the Family Court in Perth each business day of the year.”

Where is FASS located?

FASS operates from the Family Court in Perth each business day of the year.

FASS is also available when the Family Court is on circuit in Broome, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Bunbury and Albany.

Who can use FASS legal services?

Any party to a family law dispute involving allegations of family violence can ask for legal assistance from a FASS duty lawyer.

It may be possible to access FASS when the other party has already been assisted by Legal Aid WA or a community legal service.

Anyone affected by family violence in a family law matter can access the social support service.

FASS clients often include mothers, fathers, grandparents and other extended family members.

This fact sheet contains information only. It is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should speak to a lawyer. Legal Aid WA aims to provide accurate information but does not accept responsibility if it is not.

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INFOLINE 1300 650 579 WEBSITE www.legalaid.wa.gov.au

FASS duty lawyers help clients prepare documents in a Family Court matter, negotiate for a client, and appear in court.

How can I access FASS?

You can ask for help from FASS at the registry in the Family Court or by calling Legal Aid WA's Infoline on 1300 650 579.

You can find out more about the FASS service on the Legal Aid WA website: www.legalaid.wa.gov.au.

The Legal Aid WA website also has information, videos and self-help guides on a range of legal topics.

How can FASS help?

FASS duty lawyers provide advice about:

- » care arrangements for children,
- » urgent property matters,
- » divorce,
- » family violence restraining orders, and
- » protection and care matters.

FASS duty lawyers may help clients to prepare documents in a Family Court matter, negotiate for a client, and appear in court.

How much the duty lawyer can help a client will depend on the client's particular circumstances, the urgency and seriousness of the issue, and the needs of other people using the service on the day.

Duty lawyers do not assist on an ongoing basis.

The FASS social support service can help with:

- » risk assessments,
- » safety planning,
- » counselling,
- » referrals to other services,
- » in-court support, and
- » by advocating for a client with organisations outside the court system.