



FAMILY ADVOCACY SUPPORT SERVICES (FASS)

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

What is FASS?

FASS is a free specialist service that provides duty lawyer and social support services to people with a family law problem who are affected by family violence or mental health issues.

FASS will help with the most urgent matters first, for example where a client or child's safety is at risk.

How can I access FASS?

FASS is available at the Family Court of WA in Perth, Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm (closed for lunch 1pm -2pm). It is a drop-in service, and an appointment is not required.

If you need to speak urgently with FASS and are not able to attend in person at the Family Court of WA in Perth, you should call the Legal Aid WA Infoline on 1300 650 579 and ask to speak to us.

Is FASS available in regional WA?

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

How can FASS help?

Legal services

FASS duty lawyers can provide advice about:

- when a child has been removed from their usual carer (we can help with a recovery order application),
- when there is a risk of a child being taken away from where they usually live,
- care arrangements for children,
- family violence restraining orders, and
- divorce and property in some cases.

FASS duty lawyers may be able to help you prepare urgent documents in a Family Court case, negotiate on your behalf, and appear in court.

How much can the FASS duty lawyer help?

How much help the FASS duty lawyer will be able to provide will depend on how many other people also need help on that day. FASS duty lawyers cannot assist with your family law case on an ongoing basis.

Social support

FASS can provide social support to people affected by family violence or mental health issues. You can access social support even if you do not need help from the FASS duty lawyer. For example, if you have a lawyer helping you already.

FASS social support can:

- help plan for your safety,
- talk to the Family Court about your safety at court,
- give you information and support during your family law court case,
- help with practical problems like Centrelink or applying for emergency relief payments,
- advocate for you with services like police, and
- connect you with behaviour change programs or other services.

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 people who work for Legal Aid WA and other agencies who specialise in family violence and mental health. FASS social support includes a dedicated men's social support worker.

Who will I speak to first?

When you come to see FASS, the first person on our team that will speak to you will ask questions about your case to work out how we can help you – this person is called a paralegal and they are not a lawyer.

What are some tips for seeing FASS?

If you have a case in court, it is important to get to court early so that you have time to speak with the FASS team before you go into court. It is helpful to bring your most recent family court documents, Family Court orders and any restraining orders.



How can Legal Aid WA help?

Call or chat

You can call our Infoline on 1300 650 579, Legal Yarn (for First Nations callers) on 1800 319 803 or chat to us online at www.legalaid.wa.gov.au

Website

You can find information about family law on our website: www.legalaid.wa.gov.au.

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