



# Ways to resolve your family law dispute

**This fact sheet has information about what a family law dispute is and what you can do to resolve the dispute with the other person.**

## What is a family law dispute?

A family law dispute is when you disagree with someone about things such as:

- » who children will live with and how much time they will spend with each parent,
- » your safety, or the safety of your children, or
- » how property should be divided following separation.

## What should you do if you have a family law dispute?

A good first step is to get legal advice from a lawyer who is experienced in family law.

Getting advice about the issues in your case will help you make an informed decision about what steps to take to resolve your dispute.

## How can I try to resolve my family law dispute with the other person?

Sometimes family law disputes can be worked out by talking to the other person.

If you feel safe and comfortable talking to the other person, consider setting up a meeting to try to talk through the issues together.

Another approach is to send an e-mail to the other person setting out what you would like to happen.

When speaking to the other person, try to keep your communication short, to-the-point and polite.

## What help can I get to work things out with the other person?

Another way a family dispute can be resolved is by you and the other person participating in Family Dispute Resolution.

Family Dispute Resolution is a type of mediation that involves people meeting together to try to reach an agreement with help from an independent Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner.

A Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner is someone who has had special training to support people to resolve disputes about children and property.

## What happens if you can't agree with the other person?

Sometimes it is not possible to reach an agreement and you may need to ask the Family Court to decide.

You should get legal advice before starting a Family Court case.

## How can Legal Aid WA help?

Legal Aid WA can provide legal advice on family law disputes. Call the Infoline on 1300 650 579 to make an appointment.

You can also find practical information, videos and factsheets about a range of family law matters on the Legal Aid WA website, including information on Legal Aid WA's Family Dispute Resolution Unit.

