

GRANDPARENTS' FAMILY LAW INFORMATION GUIDE



THIRD EDITION
AS AT 30th NOVEMBER, 2011

FAMILY LAW REFORM ASSOCIATION NSW Inc.

© Family Law Reform Association NSW Inc. 2011

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced for commercial purposes without permission from the Family Law Reform Association NSW Inc. P.O. Box 807, Sutherland, 1499, phone 02 9542.2459. Please contact the association if you would like to reproduce multiple copies for distribution at forums. Family Relationship Centres and Children's Contact Centres may download copies for grandparents at will.

Disclaimer: All care has been exercised in the compilation of this book. The content is general information only and should not be considered as personal professional advice. Please consult a suitably qualified professional for your individual circumstances. The authors and publishers expressly disclaim any liability to any person in respect of any actions taken or not taken in reliance on the contents of this book.

WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT?

(A child's view)

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other people's little girls and boys.

A grandfather is a man grandmother.

Grandparents don't have to do anything except to be there. They're old, so they shouldn't play hard or run. It is enough if they take us to the market where the pretend horse is and have lots of coins ready. Or if they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They never say "hurry-up".

Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. Grandfathers sleep a lot and always have some spare dollars for us when no-one's looking. Some can take their teeth and gums off.

Grandparents don't have to be smart, only answer questions like, "Why isn't God married?", "How come dogs chase cats?" and "Why is the moon always different?"

Grandparents don't talk baby-talk like visitors do, because it is hard to understand. When they read to us, they don't skip any pages or mind if it is the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have grandparents, especially if you don't have a television.

Grandparents need grandchildren to keep the changing world alive for them.

Grandchildren need grandparents to help them know who they are and to give them a sense of human experience in a world they cannot know.

(author unknown – every endeavour has been made to get permission to print)

A word from the President

As we have more and more seniors in our population, we also have more seniors affected by marital breakdown, which is currently running at 40%. Unfortunately, grandparents are victims of this, as they are frequently left out of any agreements between the separating parents and the Family Court. Sadly, some grandparents become estranged from their *own* children, which ultimately means that they, too, cannot see their grandchildren.

One of the major things with children is relationships. We all know children need parents, both mother and father, and they also value and treasure grandparents. To rob children of this pleasure is terribly destructive in their life experience. Also, grandparents often provide stability to their grandchildren during a very difficult period.

It is so pleasing to see an article such as this published to make us more aware of this relationship and to be recognised by the separating/estranged parents and the Family Court.

Dr. Jim Turner OAM
President
Family Law Reform Association NSW Inc
27th March, 2008

This Guide, compiled by Coral Slattery, Secretary, Family Law Reform Association NSW Inc., is our contribution to Grandparents during NSW Seniors Week 2008. Special thanks to Andrew Corish, Accredited Family Law Solicitor for his contribution, and The Shared Parenting Council of Australia for their expertise in posting this on our website.

The information contained in the Guide is current as at 30th November, 2011. It will be updated from time to time, as further information comes to hand.

Family Law Reform Association NSW Inc.
PO Box 807, Sutherland 1499
Phone 02 9542 2459
Fax 02 9521 3790
Email flra@comcen.com.au
www.familylawreform.org.au

Contents

- Introduction – Andrew Corish, Accredited Family Law Specialist 5 – 8
- What is Mediation? 8
- Family Relationship Centres 9
- Children’s Contact Centres 10
- Other Government funded Counselling & Mediation services 11
- Collaborative Law 11
- Need some legal advice? 11 - 12
- Need to go to court? 13
- Need urgent help? 14
- Need information about substance abuse? 15
- Need some family assistance? 15
- Miscellaneous Information 16
- Not being treated fairly? 16 – 17
- Further information 18

INTRODUCTION

Grandparents and Family Law

Below is a talk given by our honorary solicitor, Andrew Corish, to the Grandparents Support Group in Sydney in 2003. Andrew says most of the information in the article remains current and he has provided updating comments at the end.

Grandparents do have rights under Family Law to maintain a relationship with their grandchildren.

The position and importance of grandparents were strengthened by the 1995 amendments to the Family Law Act. The amendments inserted new “objectives” at the beginning of the children's section, in Section 60B, including that:

*“children have a right of contact, on a regular basis, with both their parents and **with other people significant to their care, welfare and development** .”*

Grandparents were for the first time specifically mentioned in Section 65C as persons capable of making application for parenting orders under the Family Law Act. They always were able to do so, but the amendments gave grandparents special recognition and status.

The way the Family Court approaches grandparents' applications is illustrated by two cases.

In *Stevens and Lee (1991) FLC 92-201* the paternal grandmother applied to have contact with her five-year old grandson. The father of the child had died as a result of an act of arson when the child was two. There was great hostility between the paternal grandmother and the mother and the grandmother had received little contact with her grandchild for some years. The judge, Justice Kay, said as follows:

“From my own sociological part, I would say that the more loving, caring people this child can have contact with, the better for the child. The greater the exposure the child can have to his biological links with his paternal grandparents, the better for the child, short and long-term. We live in troubled economic times and by way of example, in 20 years' time, the child may have need for finance in establishing a house, in purchasing a car, in any number of areas. The more people that are loving and close to him and can help him, who feel an obligation towards him, the healthier it would be for the child.”

However, in view of the ongoing conflict, he was not prepared to order ongoing contact for the time being, except by way of letters, Christmas and birthday gifts, provision of photographs, and school reports.

Shortly afterwards, another decision was handed down in the matter of *Bright (1995)*, FLC 92-570. This was a decision of Justice Trevyaud. It was also an application by paternal grandparents for contact with their grandchild who was two and a half. They asked for one weekend per month and that the parents share the driving of some 400 kilometres. It is not clear, but presumably their own son, as well as the mother, opposed the application. The parents said the child would fret if away from her mother and the child should not be embroiled in a dispute between parents. The judge said he had no hesitation in awarding the grandparents contact of one weekend per month, on the basis that they do the travelling. The judge referred to the recently decided case of *Stevens* and said:

“His Honour was at pains there (in the Stevens’ case) to point out, as I do now, that it is very important for children’s proper upbringing and development that they have contact with a much wider family than merely the parents of the relevant child. It is very important for a child to understand that he or she is part of a wider family, that he or she has grandparents on both sides, uncles, aunts and cousins, so that the child grows up feeling part of an extended and supportive family.”

The judge noted over the past few months that the child had developed a close bond with the grandparents and said it seemed not just desirable but “*absolutely essential*” that this relationship continued. The judge was not impressed by the parents’ arguments that the child would fret away from her mother, and commented that some short-term adjustment was necessary for the overwhelmingly greater long-term benefit. The judge was particularly unimpressed by the argument of the parents that the child should not be embroiled in an argument between parents. He said:

“If in fact the parents and the grandparents have fallen out, then so be it. But to seek to embroil a little girl of two and a half in a dispute between adults seems to me to be outrageous.”

The parents could not both raise the dispute and then seek to rely upon it, in His Honour’s opinion.

Both these cases were just before the new Family Law amendments came in. Possibly Justice Kay may have been more supportive of the grandmother if the amendments had been in place.

So grandparents can and should do something about it if they are being deliberately alienated from their grandchildren. The cases indicate that the less hostility there is the better. Grandparents get much less support if they are causing disruption and disharmony to their grandchildren’s lives, however justified their anger may be. Generally grandparents are expected to see their grandchildren at the same time as their own child has contact. However, if there are special circumstances, or if their child won’t or can’t seek contact, or if their own child is the problem, then grandparents can bring action. Probably the grandparents need to do the travelling and incur the expense and should try and fit in their contact with the parents’ and certainly the child’s convenience as much as possible.

Needless to say, court proceedings are the very last resort. They are very undesirable. All efforts at negotiation and conciliation should be tried first. Mediation organisations such as Unifam, Catholiccare, Relationships Australia and private mediators can be of great benefit. You can go and see them initially and discuss the situation with them and get support and suggestions. The mediators can then take the matter forward by contacting the parent and inviting him or her to a meeting, to discuss problems and resolutions. There is some expense involved in mediation, but it is quite reasonable. You can no longer go to counselling at the Family Court, unless proceedings are issued, but thereafter the counsellors can be of great benefit.

If proceedings are necessary, it is always good to get advice from a lawyer and pay for a lawyer to represent you, if you can afford it. Most grandparents will not be in a position to pay large sums for legal representation, nor should they do so. Grandparents should consider bringing the proceedings on their own, perhaps after seeing a lawyer and getting a lawyer to draw their initial documents.

The proceedings can be brought in the Family Court, the Federal Magistrates Court or in Local courts. The Federal Magistrates Court and Local Courts have some advantages, in that you get your material on quicker and get a quicker decision, and a large percentage of persons in those courts are unrepresented.

The documents should emphasise the positive things you can bring to your grandchildren and criticism of the parents kept to a minimum, unless their poor parenting or unreasonable actions towards you are directly in issue and relevant to the case.

As in the Stevens' case, the grandparents' contact in a difficult situation may initially be limited to telephone, letters and gifts. However that can still be of great benefit and keeps the door open for greater contact as the child grows older.

Once orders are made, they are binding and enforceable, and can be enforced by an application to the Court. Needless to say, this is also difficult and thankless work to bring an enforcement application, but can be done and can be effective.

The Family Court has an excellent website (www.familycourt.gov.au) and conducts regular information sessions. The Federal Magistrates' Court also has an excellent website (www.fms.gov.au) and has numerous helpful resources. However there is a paucity of good material about how to help yourself in the courts, which hopefully will be rectified soon.

Andrew Corish

Accredited Family Law Specialist

Staunton & Thompson Solicitors

Manly and North Sydney

Ph: 9977 5000

Email: arc@stlegal.com.au

Updating Comments:

The further changes to the Family Law Act in 2006 confirmed and emphasized the importance of the relationship of grandparents and grandchildren. Grandparents are now specifically mentioned in sections 60B(b), 63C(2A) and S64B(2) of the Act. More grandparents are making applications to the courts successfully. It is important to note that since July 2007 it is compulsory to attempt to reach agreement by mediation prior to issuing proceedings and obtain a certificate that you have tried prior to issuing proceedings. Such certificates can be obtained from Family Relationships Centres and from other mediation organizations. Grandparents will usually be successful in obtaining orders to have some communication and time with their grandchildren. However, as a general rule, grandparents should try to support and supplement parents, rather than replace them, and orders are often of the nature of one day or one weekend a month and/or for a week's holiday a year. Grandparents should be careful they are not seen as causing more conflict and problems than is necessary.

Andrew Corish
25th March, 2008

What is Mediation?

Mediation is an alternative to litigation via the courts. Litigation is an adversarial system in an open court which can be stressful and costly and where there is a winner and loser.

Mediation seeks to settle disputes between parties amicably in an informal and confidential forum without strict legal rules under the guidance of a skilled mediator. The mediator's role is to assist the parties to discuss, negotiate and achieve a solution in an atmosphere of cooperation and good faith.

(Law Society of N.S.W. 2001)

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP CENTRES IN NSW/ACT

Albury/Wodonga, 282 Beechworth Road, Wodonga – **02 6057.5300**

Bankstown, Ground Floor, 8 Jacobs Street, Bankstown - **02 9707.8555**

Bathurst, 91 Seymour Street, Bathurst - **02 6333.8888**

Blacktown, 125 Main Street, Blacktown – **02 8811.0000**

Campbelltown, Level 2, Shop L105, Macarthur Square, Gilchrist Drive, Campbelltown
– **02 4629.7000**

Canberra, 15 Napier Close, Deakin - **02 6122.7190**

Coffs Harbour, 24 Park Avenue, Coffs Harbour - **02 6659.4100**

Dubbo (includes Indigenous Advisor), 138 Darling Street, Dubbo - **02 6815.9600**

Erina, 213 The Entrance Road, Erina **02 4363.8000**

Fairfield, Shops 1 – 4, 28 Hamilton Road, Fairfield - **02 9794.2000**

Lismore, Market Street Community Centre, Level 1, 5 Market Street, Lismore
(includes Indigenous Adviser) – 02 6622.7003

Newcastle, 495 Hunter Street, Newcastle – **02 4016.0566**

North Ryde, Unit 1, North RydeLink Business Park, 277 Lane Cove Road, North Ryde
– **02 8874.8088**

Northern Beaches, First Floor, 651 Pittwater Road, Dee Why - **02 9981.9799**

Nowra, 38-44 Berry Street, Nowra **(includes Indigenous Advisor) – 02 4429.1400**

Parramatta, Level 3, 16 Parkes Street, Parramatta - **02 9895.8144**

Penrith, Ground Floor, 27 Lawson Street (Cnr Henry Street) Penrith – **02 4720.4999**

Sutherland, 383-385 Port Hacking Road South, Caringbah - **02 9525.6488**

Sydney City, 118 Sussex Street, Sydney **02 8235.1500**

Tamworth, V. Guy Kable, 195A Marius Street, Tamworth - **02 6762.1783**

Taree, 146 Victoria Street, Taree - **02 6551.1200**

Wagga Wagga, 129 Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga Wagga – **02 6923.9100**

Wollongong, Shop 2, 310 Crown Street, Wollongong – **02 4220.1100**

For other States please refer to www.familyrelationships.gov.au

Family Relationship Advice Line – 1800 050 321

For confidential in-depth advice over the phone.

www.familyrelationships.gov.au

CHILDREN'S CONTACT CENTRES

Children's Contact Centres (funded by FAHCSIA) were established to assist parents in high conflict to handover their children during access times in an appropriate, neutral venue. Supervised access is also provided by the centres, where necessary. Centres are located at:

Albury, 681 Young Street, Albury **02 6058.0700**

Blacktown, 26 Swinson Road, Blacktown - **02 9671.3900**

Campbelltown, 35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown - **02 4640.8527 or 02 4628.0044**

Canberra, 255 Goyder Street, Narrabundah – **02 6295.2755**

Coffs Harbour, 24 Park Avenue, Coffs Harbour - **02 6659.4150**

Dubbo, 138 Darling Street, Dubbo - **02 6815.9650**

Gosford/Wyong, 213 The Entrance Road, Erina – **02 4363.8050**

Harris Park/Parramatta, 13 Marion Street, Harris Park – **02 9893.7949**

Kirrawee, 160 Bath Road, Kirrawee – **02 9545.3566**

Lismore, 5 Market Street, Lismore - **02 6623.2750**

Newcastle, 4 Heddon Road, Broadmeadow – **02 4940.1500**

Nowra, 68 Shoalhaven Street, Nowra – **02 4254.7777**

Orange, 108 – 110 McLachlan Street, Orange - **02 6360.0895**

Penrith, 340 High Street, Penrith - **02 4728.4802**

Port Macquarie, 119 Lake Road, Port Macquarie – **02 6584.9293**

Sydney City, 13/133 Liverpool Street, Sydney – **02 9390.5366**

Tamworth, Jumbuck Cottage, Kable Avenue, Tamworth – **02 6766.4596**

Wagga Wagga, 55a Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga – **02 6921.8844**

Wollongong, 25-27 Auburn Street, Wollongong – **02 4429.1101**

OTHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED COUNSELLING AND MEDIATION SERVICES

Community Justice Centres – free call 1800.990.777

www.cjc.nsw.gov.au

Unifam Counselling and Mediation – 02 8830.0700

www.unifamcounselling.org

Catholiccare - 02 9390.5377

www.catholiccare.org

Relationships Australia – Counselling 1300.364.277 – Mediation 02 8874.8010

Website – Relationships Australia

COLLABORATIVE LAW The phone numbers of lawyers practicing collaborative law and an explanation of collaborative law are only available by accessing the website.

www.collabprofessionalsnsw.org.au/family/collaborative-lawhtml

Need some legal information?

Law Access NSW – 1300 888 529 TTY 1300 889 529

LawAccess NSW is a free government service that provides legal information, advice and referrals for people who have a legal problem in NSW. Call 1300 888 529 for the cost of a local call between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). You can also get plain language information about the law on LawAccess Online at www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au

Older Persons Legal and Education Program – 02 9281.3600 or 1800.424.079

A joint initiative of Legal Aid NSW and the Aged-care Rights Service (TARS), launched on Monday 7 April, 2008. The program will provide free legal advice, assistance, legal education and representation to older people.

www.tars.com.au

Legal Aid NSW – Head Office – 02 9219 5000 TTY – 02 9219 5126 or call the **National Relay Service on 133 677.**

Legal Aid NSW provides a range of services to people who need advice, assistance and representation, and who qualify for legal aid.

www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) – Ltd – 02 8303.660 – Free legal advice and assistance

www.alsnswact.org.au

Child Support Service of the Legal Aid Commission – 02 9633.9916 or 1800 451 784 (toll free for regional areas)

This service gives free independent legal advice for child support payers and payees. www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au (click on specialist services and then child support service)

Pro Bono Scheme – 02 9926.0364

Pro Bono work is legal work done by solicitors, either free or at a reduced cost, to members of the public who have limited incomes.

www.lawsociety.com.au (click on “Information for the Public – Pro Bono Scheme”)

Law Society of NSW – 02 9926.0300

The Solicitor Referral Service of the Law Society of New South Wales provides members of the public with the names of private solicitors or accredited specialists in specific areas of law. www.lawsociety.com.au (click on “Information for the Public – Solicitor Referral Service”)

Macquarie Legal Centre – 02 8833.0911

Macquarie Legal Centre is a Community Legal Centre in Western Sydney. There are other Community Legal Centres throughout the State. They provide free legal advice and assistance to some clients who can't afford private representation and who live within their geographical area. www.macquarielegal.org.au

Women’s Legal Resource Centre – 02 9749.5533 or 1800 801 501 (outside Sydney) Free legal advice about family law and other legal problems affecting women. www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au

Self Represented Litigants (SLR) Resources – Self Represented Litigants (SLR) Resources www.srl-resources.com is a not for profit organisation set up to help SRLs better navigate and understand the minefield of the Family Courts. www.familylawwebguide.com.au

Lone Parent Support Network – Ray Lenton 0401.811.010

The Lone Parent Support Network is a volunteer organisation which can assist parents and grandparents to navigate family law and child support systems. They can assist you to connect with Advocacy, Mentoring, Court Support and Legal Resources.

Email – oneparent@live.com.au

South West Sydney Legal Centre – 02 9601.7777

Free Legal Advice, seminars, phone advice and Outreach.

Drummoyne Community Centre (covering Drummoyne, Five Dock & Concord Areas – 02 9719.8102 –Community Information www.dcc.org.au

Need to go to court?

Family Court of Australia – 1300 352 000 (national – except for W.A.)

The Family Court now focuses mainly on the determination of the most complex family law disputes. www.familycourt.gov.au

Family Court Hotline – 1300 352 000

Federal Magistrates Court – 1300 352 000 (national – except for W.A.)

The FMC now handles most family law matters. . www.fmc.gov.au

Local Courts – (Also known as Magistrates' Court)

Local Courts in New South Wales have jurisdiction to deal with some urgent family law matters, or by consent of both parties. www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au (click on courts & tribunals – local courts – location)

Children's Courts –

NSW Children's Courts deal with matters related to the care and protection of children and young people, and also criminal cases concerning children and young people.

Bidura Children's Court – 02 8667.2100

Broadmeadow – 02 4915.5200

Campbelltown – 02 4629.9777

Illawarra (Port Kembla) – 02 4274.0735

Parramatta – 02 8688.1888

Woy Woy – 02 4344.0111

Wyong – 02 4350.3010

www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/chilrencourt

Need urgent help?

NSW Department of Community Services –

Phone **132 111** to report suspected child abuse and neglect **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

Phone **1800 656 463** – free anywhere in NSW - domestic violence line **24 hours 7 days**

Metropolitan Regional offices – Metro central (Strawberry Hills) - **02 8303 7600**

Metro south west (Bankstown area) - **02 9781.5555**

Metro west (Parramatta area) – **02 9354 1800**

www.community.nsw.gov.au

After Hours Emergency Child Protection and Family Crisis Service

1800 066 777 www.community.nsw.gov.au

Suicide Prevention of Australia – 02 9568.3111

www.suicidepreventionaust.org

Lifeline – 13 11 14

The Lifeline network provides 24 hour telephone counselling service.

www.lifeline.org.au

Mensline Australia - 1300 78 99 78

Specialist, professional counsellors providing **24 hour, 7 day a week** support.

Mensline Australia is a national telephone support service for men with family or relationship concerns www.menslineaus.org.au

Child Abuse Prevention Service (C.A.P.S.) -02 9716.8000 or 1800 688 009

(9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday)

Domestic Violence Line – 1800 656 463 (24 hours – 7 days)

Family Drug Support – 1300 368 186 (24 hours – 7 days)

Family Relationship Advice Line - 1800 050 321 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. to Fri)

Interpreter Service – 13 14 50 (24 hours – 7 days)

Kids Help Line – support for children – 1800 551 800 (24 hours – 7 days)

Police - 000

Public Interest Advocacy Centre – (includes Indigenous advice) – 02 8898.6500

Victims Access Line – 02 8688.5511 or 1800 633 063

Youth Line – support for youth -02 9318.1531 (24 hours – 7 days)

Need information about substance abuse?

Alcohol and other Drugs Information Service – 02 9361.8000 or 1800 422 599
(regional areas) www.yourroom.com.au

Most public hospitals have Drug and Alcohol Centres.

Need some family assistance?

The Mirabel Foundation – Phone **03 9527 9422**

The Foundation was established in 1998 to assist children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use. This resource book was written specifically to assist kinship carers address and identify some of the issues and concerns that may arise in this situation. It recognises the impact of taking on the care of these children and the ramifications of a loved one's substance abuse.

www.mirabelfoundation.org.au

Salvo Care Line – 02 9331.6000 or 1300 363 622 (outside Sydney)

www.salvationarmy.org.au

St. Vincent de Paul – 02 9560.8666

www.vinnies.org.au

Uniting Care Burnside - 02 9768.6866 www.burnside.org.au

Chinese Migrant Welfare Association – 02 9716.0612 www.cmwa.org.au

The Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre – 02 9687.9901 – program to develop a sense of place and belonging in which all Australians can come together to learn, understand and contribute to Australia's cultural diversity.

www.thhppmrc.org.au

Sutherland Shire Information & Community Service – 02 9521.8280 – Emergency Relief Program provides financial assistance and information about other services.

Miscellaneous Information

NSW Department of Education - Unless schools are informed otherwise (eg by being provided with a copy of court orders), they will assume that both parents retain a shared and equal parental responsibility for their children. This means that the school will recognise that each parent has equal duties, obligations, responsibilities and opportunities in relation to matters involving their children's education at the school. Grandparents are mentioned in the policy. The Policy is not available in hard copy, but can be viewed at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/familylaw/index.php

Centrelink – 131 021 (Business hours)

Child Support Agency – 131 272 (Business hours)

Not being treated fairly?

Commonwealth Ombudsman – 1300 362 072

The Commonwealth Ombudsman will consider and investigate complaints about Australian Government departments and agencies, such as the Child Support Agency, Centrelink, etc. www.ombudsman.gov.au

NSW Ombudsman – 02 9286.1000 or toll free (outside Sydney) 1800 451 524
TTY 02 9264.8050

The NSW Ombudsman will consider and investigate complaints about NSW Government departments and agencies, such as the Department of Community Services, Department of Housing, etc. www.ombo.nsw.gov.au

Administrative Decisions Tribunal - The Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT) is responsible for reviewing administrative decisions made by certain New South Wales government agencies, including freedom of information decisions.

The ADT cannot review every decision made by a New South Wales government department or agency. Your right to request a review of a decision by the ADT is set out in the law under which the government agency made the decision. If you have a right to request a review of the decision by the ADT, the person who made the decision or agency must tell you this when you are informed of the decision. In most cases, you are required to ask for an internal review of the decision by the government agency before applying to the ADT for a review.

In some cases the ADT can review a decision without an internal review being undertaken. This occurs when:

- a decision is exempt from an internal review; or
- an urgent review of the decision is needed to protect your interests

You can ask the government agency or the ADT if your decision is exempt. If you do not agree with the internal review decision or you haven't received a response from the government agency after 21 days, the next step is to make an application to the ADT to review the decision.

Application [Forms](#) are available on the ADT website, however, you cannot lodge the application via the internet. Please post or bring your application to the ADT registry.

Contact:

Street address: Level 10, John Maddison Tower, 86 Goulburn Street, SYDNEY
NSW 2000

Telephone (02) 9377.5711– 9.00am to 4.00pm Mon-Fri

Fax: (02) 9377.5723

TTY: (02) 9377.5859

Email: ag_adt@agd.nsw.gov.au

Web page: <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adt>

For more information on the Administrative Decisions Tribunal you can contact LawAccess NSW 1300 888 529 or LawAccess Online www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au/

Office of Legal Services – 02 9377.1800 TTY 02 9377.1855

The Office of the Legal Services Commissioner (“OLSC”) receives complaints about professional solicitors and barristers in NSW. The OLSC works as part of a co-regulatory system, together with the Law Society of NSW (professional body for solicitors) and the NSW Bar Association (professional body for barristers) to resolve disputes and investigate complaints about professional conduct.

www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/olsc

Further information may be obtained from:

FAMILY LAW REFORM ASSOCIATION NSW, Inc. 02 9542.2459

www.familylawreform.org.au

SHARED PARENTING COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA –

Wayne Butler, Executive Secretary – 0411.850.677

www.familylawwebguide.com.au/spca

FAMILY LAW WEB GUIDE

www.familylawwebguide.com.au

GRANS – Di Underwood - 0418.622.120

If you provide a relevant community service, have not been listed and would like to be, please contact the Family Law Reform Association NSW Inc. on the phone number above. Updates will be provided from time to time as more information comes to hand.