

When You Need to See or Speak to a **Family Lawyer**

- 1. If you are considering separation, you should obtain legal advice for a lawyer specialising in family law. You need to obtain advice to assist you to make the right decisions during the separation process and to enable you to know what your future may look like. Your family lawyer can also refer to you other professionals and services that you may want to access.
- 2. If you have separated and you haven't obtained advice about your property and financial settlement, you should obtain advice immediately from a lawyer specialising in family law. You need to know what you may be entitled to, how to finalise your matters so neither party can change their mind and try to make a further claim at a later date and what time limits you have to finalise your property and financial matters.
- 3. If you are separated and haven't been able to work out an agreement for the arrangements for the children or are going to go to mediation (or otherwise called family dispute resolution) or you are unsure what your options for the arrangements for the children are or what you should be considering when making arrangements for the children, you should obtain advice from a lawyer specialising in family law.
- 4. Sometimes parents have been separated for years with amicable arrangements for the children and then one party (or one or more the children) want to change those arrangements and the parent wanting the change or supporting the change feels the other parent will not support it or agree to it, we recommend you obtain legal advice on your options for proposing the change and how to implement it.
- 5. If a party fails to comply with Family Law orders, parenting plan, child support agreement or binding financial agreement, you should obtain legal from a lawyer specialising in family law as soon as possible as to your options for compliance and enforcement.

Seeing a lawyer does not mean you will end up in Court, most families never go to Court (although many will submit an Application for Consent Orders, which is not a contested matter and parties do not attend Court for this). Most family lawyers will help their clients though the process with negotiations and mediation, saving families the emotional and financial toll of going to Court.

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