

Bringing a support person to a family dispute resolution conference

What you need to know

If you're participating in a family dispute resolution conference you might want to bring a family member, friend or colleague with you to support you through the conference process.

When can I bring a support person to my conference?

You can bring a support person to the conference if everyone involved in the conference process agrees – including the other person involved in the dispute, the family dispute resolution practitioner and the agency organising the conference.

What if they don't agree about my support person attending?

If everyone involved in the conference doesn't agree, your support person will not be allowed in the conference room. They will be able to wait outside the conference room and give you support during breaks in the conference process. Breaks are scheduled as needed by the family dispute resolution practitioner or as requested by those involved in the process.

What can a support person do at the conference?

Support people provide 'silent support' – this means they do not play an active role in the mediation and must not

participate in any discussions or negotiations about the issues being mediated or other issues that arise during the process. You can talk to your support person about the issues being discussed when you are outside the conference room at scheduled breaks.

Support people do not have the right to speak to the other person involved in the dispute or to raise issues with the family dispute resolution practitioner, the other person's legal representative or an independent children's lawyer involved in the process.

Can my support person be asked to leave a conference?

Your support person can be excluded from the conference process at any time if the family dispute resolution practitioner finds they are being disruptive to the process or aren't helping to progress the mediation.

Can my support person get legal aid for the conference?

Support people are not eligible for a grant of aid.

What if I need an interpreter?

Please let us know if you need an interpreter. We will then arrange and pay for an interpreter for your session.



Your local Legal Aid Queensland office:

BRISBANE

44 Herschel St, 4000

BUNDEBERG

3rd Floor, WIN Tower,
Cnr Quay & Barolin Sts, 4670

CABOOLTURE

Ground Floor, Kingsgate
42 King St, 4510

CAIRNS

Level 2, Cairns Square Complex,
42-52 Abbott St, 4870

INALA

Level 1, Inala Commonwealth
Offices, 20 Wirraway Pde, 4077

IPSWICH

Level 7, 117 Brisbane St, 4305

MACKAY

Ground Floor,
17 Brisbane St, 4740

MAROOCHYDORE

Ground Floor, M1 Building
1 Duporth Ave, 4558

MOUNT ISA

6 Miles St, 4825

ROCKHAMPTON

Ground Floor, 35 Fitzroy St, 4700

SOUTHPORT

Level 2, 7 Bay St, 4215

TOOWOOMBA

1st Floor, 154 Hume St, 4350

TOWNSVILLE

Level 4, Northern Securities
Building, 22 Walker St, 4810

WOODRIDGE

1st Floor, Woodridge Place,
Cnr Ewing Rd & Carmody St, 4114

For more information
about our services visit
legalaid.qld.gov.au

or phone **1300 65 11 88** or **1300 650 143**
(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Information Line)

