

# 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 OFFICE:**

### **BRISBANE**

44 Herschel St, 4000

### **BUNDABERG**

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**

Lvl 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**

1st Floor, 100 Scarborough St, 4215

### **TOOWOOMBA**

1st Floor, 154 Hume St, 4350

### **TOWNSVILLE**

3rd Floor, Northtown  
280 Flinders St, 4810

### **WOODRIDGE**

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

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICES:**

**Phone 1300 65 11 88**

**[www.legalaid.qld.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.qld.gov.au)**