



FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Sydney Registry
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Mr Stuart Westgarth
The President
The Law Society of New South Wales
DX 362 Sydney

03 February 2011

Dear Mr Westgarth,

I am writing to advise you of an important initiative underway in the Family Court of Australia's Sydney Registry. Justices Watts and Ryan will be conducting a callover of 60 matters in the pool of matters waiting to go to a Judge. It will be conducted over six days during March 2011.

The Court has written to the parties involved in the 60 matters advising them of the callover. If the matter is ready, the parties can expect to be listed for a first day event before a Judge at any time from 14 April 2011 - 29 June 2011.

At the callover, parties will be expected to be prepared to discuss the following at this event:

- The current status of the matter including compliance with any orders or directions made regarding preparation for hearing;
- The name of any Counsel briefed (if any);
- Any other issues affecting of this matter progressing to a first day listing before a Judge.

In some children's matters, a child dispute conference or a further child dispute conference will be held prior to the callover.

The Court has stressed in its correspondence that it is necessary to ensure that someone familiar with the particulars of the case attends the callover and is in a position to address specific questions regarding its current status. In addition, it is important for the client to be present.

The Court also plans to brief the profession at its next **Legal Profession Liaison Meeting scheduled for 1-2pm Monday 7 March 2011**. I would therefore be grateful if you could draw this to your Family Law practitioners' attention.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions in relation to the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Marianne Christmann
Regional Registry Manager NSW/ACT