

FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

CDS

This protocol is designed to reduce the risk of being in close contact¹ with a Court user who may be infectious. This is the most appropriate way, at present, for the Court to balance important health and safety considerations of Judges, staff and the community with the need to continue this vital work for Australian families.

1) Interviews

Interviews with adult parties will generally occur on a separate day via telephone and will be staggered.

In adhering to the principles of social distancing, interviews with children and parent/child observations must be limited to a maximum of 1.5 hours with the same individual(s). Observations will likely occur in a separate room to that used for the interviews with children.

To the extent possible, taking into account the age of the child, Family Consultants are to adhere to the principles of social distancing by keeping an appropriate distance (i.e. at least 1.5 to 2 metres apart). There should never more than eight people in the room other than the Family Consultant at one time.

2) Cleaning

Additional cleaning of interview rooms is being arranged.

¹ A close contact is typically someone who has been face-to-face for at least 15 minutes, or been in the same closed space for at least 2 hours, with a person that was infectious (World Health Organisation definition).