



Clarissa Rayward
Family Lawyer
Accredited Family Law Specialist

Clarissa is a wife, mum to two, Divorce Lawyer and lover of chocolate, coffee and anything colourful! She loves to write, dance and spend any free moment 'crafting' (or as she likes to call it #bedazzling!)

By day Clarissa is an accredited specialist family lawyer and the Director of the Brisbane Family Law Centre, a multidisciplinary practice where her team of lawyers work alongside counsellors and financial planners to ensure that clients receive the holistic support they need through divorce. She specialises in working with families through separation in a way that keeps them away from the Courts and ideally enables them to remain friends for the future. This takes courage, and is not for everyone, but divorce is one of the most challenging moments any of us can experience and after almost 20 years in family law Clarissa has come to learn that a long, expensive and combative legal process is rarely good for anyone.

Clarissa published her first book, *Splitsville- How to separate, stay out of court and stay friends* in 2015 and have since spent countless hours training family lawyers in Australia and around the world in better ways to help clients through divorce.

In her 'other hours' she works with lawyers around Australia through her 'side hustle' 'Happy Lawyer Happy Life'. After managing her own experience of burn out thanks to her life as a lawyer, Clarissa now works helping others ensure they can build great lives in law (and outside of it too!)

Clarissa's podcast and book both titled 'Happy Lawyer Happy Life' offer insights and resources for legal professionals seeking fulfilling careers and happiness both in law and in life. She didn't set out to be a happiness advocate in law but it seems that is just how it has all come together and in 2019 Clarissa was recognised as the 2019 Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards Wellness Advocate of the Year and the inaugural winner of the Minds Court Individual Wellness Advocate in Law.

These days she still works with families all around Australia helping them through divorce and separation and all the bits in between. But in her 'free time' she is working hard to change the way lawyers practise law, to reduce our overly high rates of anxiety, depression and psychological ill health just in case one of her girls decides this crazy career might be for her too!