

FAMILY LAW SETTLEMENT SERVICE

**Are you involved in a Family Law
dispute that you want to resolve?**

The Family Law Settlement Service provides referrals to qualified independent mediators that can assist parties in reaching an agreement. It is fast, cost-effective and has worked for many parties in this very Court.



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

What is the Family Law Settlement Service (FLSS)?

The FLSS is a mediation program designed specifically for family law matters. Parenting matters are suitable for referral at any time and will be allocated to Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners (FDRPs). Financial and property disputes are best referred at the post-conciliation conference stage. The idea is to attempt mediation in order to avoid the costs, uncertainty and delays of having your dispute determined at a final hearing.

Parties participate in mediation to maintain control of the decision-making process and to make a good faith attempt to resolve their dispute. The mediator will provide a structure for parties to find common ground and discuss the issues in dispute. All agreements are made between the parties – there are no imposed decisions.

How much does it cost?

The fee payable is \$990.00 per party – this fee covers the mediator's fees (\$825.00) and the FLSS administration fee (\$165.00).

The fee covers:

- A two-hour preliminary conference (one-hour per party) and preparation; and
- A three-hour mediation session.

If the mediation goes for longer than three hours, then the parties will be charged at an hourly rate as advised by the mediator during the preliminary conference. Any additional costs for venue hire (if required) are shared between the parties.

Who is on the FLSS panel?

The panel consists of solicitors who are also qualified mediators. To be appointed to the panel they must have demonstrated that they have a substantial involvement in family law in the three years prior to being appointed. They will conduct conflict of interest checks before agreeing to be appointed to your matter to ensure impartiality.

THE FLSS PROCESS

**ORDERS MADE BY CONSENT
TO PARTICIPATE IN FLSS**

The Court/Parties sends the Order and contact details of each party to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Department of the Law Society of New South Wales.

We request payment of \$990.00 from each party to be paid within 21 days.

Has payment been received from each party?

YES

NO

We appoint a mediator from the FLSS Panel and advise the parties.

We advise the Court of the appointment of the mediator.

The appointed mediator then takes over the process and begins preliminary conferences.

Parties mediate.

The mediator invoices us and we attend to payment of their fees.

We advise the Court of the non-paying party.

The FLSS is a joint initiative between the Family Law Courts and the Law Society of New South Wales. It is administered by the Access to Justice Department (please see our contact details below).

For more information

- Speak to your solicitor
- Call an A2J team member on 02 9926 0396
- Go to lawsociety.com.au/flss

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