

What is Family Dispute Resolution?

Family dispute resolution (FDR) is a process that helps couples and families who are in conflict to communicate with each other and reach agreement about issues relating to their separation (such as child care, child support, financial arrangements and property settlement).

In family dispute resolution, a meeting of the disputing parties is facilitated by an independent third party (the FDR practitioner).

The process involves the disputing parties:

- listening to each other's point of view without interruption
- identifying issues which need to be resolved
- sharing of relevant information
- exploring ideas and options
- testing possible solutions
- putting decisions and agreements in writing.

Decisions made during FDR are not legally binding. Everyone gets the opportunity to express his or her own point of view and is free to talk about issues of concern, with everyone present.

Who are the FDR practitioners?

Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners are highly skilled people from a variety of professional backgrounds, such as law, psychology and social work. They are trained in resolving disputes, particularly in relation to children, property and financial matters.

Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners do not give legal advice but will explore general principles that apply to couples who are separating.

How long is a session?

A session lasts about 2 hours.

How many sessions do I have to attend?

The average number of sessions for the whole process is between three and five.

How much will it cost?

We are a not-for-profit community organisation and our family dispute resolution service is only partially funded by the government, so fees are normally charged. However, we do try to make our services as affordable as possible.

Our fees are determined on a sliding scale (based on gross household income and number of dependents). We have a surcharge on after-hours appointments.

When you call to make a booking for counselling, we will advise you of the fees payable.

How do I make an appointment?

If you want to make an appointment, contact the RAV centre nearest you.

Visit our website to find RAV centre locations and more information about family dispute resolution.

www.relationshipsvictoria.com.au