

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTITIONERS

This Fact Sheet provides general information for family dispute resolution (FDR) practitioners. It includes information about:

1. registration numbers
2. voice messages
3. children and FDR
4. refusal to attend FDR with a particular practitioner
5. relevant legislation

Other Fact Sheets providing a range of information are available on the [Information for accredited family dispute resolution practitioners'](#) web page. FDR practitioners seeking legal information about practice issues should phone the Family Relationship Advice Line on 1800 050 321.

1. Practitioner registration numbers for section 60I certificates

One unique registration number is provided to each FDR practitioner when they meet the Accreditation Standards. The number provided to the practitioner is valid for the time they are providing FDR services and continue to meet the Accreditation Standards.

The number can be used when providing independent FDR services and/or when providing FDR on behalf of an organisation.

I was issued with an 'R000' number before 1 July 2009 – can I still use it?

No. Registration numbers starting with 'R000' issued under the Interim Accreditation Rules are no longer valid. Practitioners can only issue section 60I certificates if they have met the Accreditation Standards under *the Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008*.

What do I do if I forget my registration number?

FDR practitioners can contact the Practitioner Accreditation Unit on 1800 025 255 or by email to fdrrregistration@ag.gov.au to request for their registration number be provided by email. Registration numbers will not be provided over the phone.

2. Voice messages - initial contact

When faced with situations where practitioners are unable to contact the other party directly, they should not leave messages to explain anything other than *'return the call and make an appointment'*.

3. Children's involvement in the FDR process

It is possible for children to be included in some form of FDR. This will be determined on a case by case basis in accordance with the age, maturity and capacity of the child. It will also depend on the circumstances of the individual dispute. This form of FDR can

only occur if an FDR practitioner (or other expert available) has the appropriate skills and training.

Practitioners must comply with the laws in relation to child-related work in each state or territory they provide FDR services. This could mean obtaining a working with children check or national police check. Practitioners should check their requirements with relevant governing bodies.

4. Choice of FDR practitioners

If people involved in the dispute approach different FDR practitioners and refuse to attend FDR with the other practitioner, it is a matter for the professional judgement of the FDR practitioners to determine how to proceed. For example, both practitioners may agree to be involved in aspects of the process or one practitioner may co-ordinate the process and the other provide assistance only if required.

Ultimately, if the people cannot agree on how to conduct FDR, practitioners may consider issuing a certificate stating that the other person 'refused to attend.' It may be that both practitioners issue a certificate to this effect.

5. Relevant legislation

FDR practitioner should be aware of the legislation they work under when providing FDR services. Apart from each state and territory having particular requirements for child-related work, FDR practitioners should also make themselves familiar with (at least):

- [Family Law Act 1975](#) (and/or [Family Court Act 1997 \(WA\)](#) if relevant)
- [Family Law \(Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners\) Regulations 2008](#)