

## This service can help you to:

- t Focus on the needs of your children - they don't possess the coping mechanisms that adults have.
- t Build a positive parenting alliance - you are parents for life!
- t Clarify the important issues and resolve them together.
- t Listen to each other and find outcomes that are fair and sustainable.
- t Develop a parenting plan to set out arrangements for your child/children.

## Referrals and bookings

To make a booking or inquiry please contact your nearest office.

## Fees

FDR services are subsidised by the Commonwealth Government. A means-tested co-contribution is payable.

“Things are so much easier now the fighting is over.”

FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLIENT

## About us

At CatholicCare Victoria we are committed to empowering communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full.

Our services are available to all individuals or groups regardless of race, religious beliefs or economic status.

CatholicCare Victoria is the social service agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Catholic Dioceses of Ballarat, Sandhurst and Sale.

## Contact us

Dandenong  
T (03) 8710 9600

Epping  
T(03) 8468 1305

Footscray  
T (03) 9689 3888

Geelong  
T(03) 5221 7055

# Family Dispute Resolution

CatholicCare Victoria acknowledges the history, culture, diversity, and value of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and pays respect to their Elders past and present, as well as acknowledging future generations.

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## Supporting Separated Parents

Divorce, separation or family breakdown can be difficult and stressful for everyone involved.

Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) is a mediation process that helps couples to sort out problems and disagreements caused by their separation or divorce.

Many separated or separating couples who access FDR are able to come to agreement on issues such as property, money and most importantly, the children, without the need to go to court.

## Frequently asked questions

### Is FDR legal advice?

No, we encourage our clients to seek independent legal advice. While we work in the context of the Family Law Act, our practitioners are not working as lawyers.

### Is FDR counselling?

No, however we can refer you to one of our counsellors to address issues such as coping with stress and anxiety caused by the separation. We also offer counselling for children to help them adjust to changes within the family structure.

### Is FDR Court?

No, we do not impose legal outcomes on people. Our aim is to help you negotiate agreements together, minimise conflict and look after the needs of the children. FDR is designed to help you avoid having to ask a court to make decisions about your children and your money.

## What happens during FDR?

A qualified practitioner guides parents through discussions about sharing decision-making, particularly in regard to their child/children's welfare, so that parents can resolve conflict and come to mutual agreements.

FDR practitioners are impartial and will not take sides. A qualified practitioner can help you to explore family issues in an objective and positive way.

Separated parents who are having difficulty coming to an agreement on parenting and financial arrangements after separation can access our FDR service.

## More information about FDR

FDR practitioners cannot provide legal advice, but our staff are qualified under the Family Law Act 1975 to provide family dispute resolution services; and issue a Section 60I certificate (when appropriate).

An FDR practitioner ensures all parties have a say, all points of view are heard and mutual agreement is reached. Before FDR can commence, an assessment will be made to see whether FDR is suitable for your situation.

Your privacy is important to us and we will not disclose your personal information without your express permission. Evidence of what is said during FDR is not admissible in court.

## Finding the right support for you and your family

At CatholicCare Victoria we offer a range of services to suit the needs of our local communities.

If you're not sure what service is right for you or your family, contact us to discover how we can best support your needs.

Other services you may be interested include:

- Family and Relationship Counselling for adults, children and families to work on healthy relationships.
- Parenting Orders Program for separated parents to manage parenting and contact arrangements and focus on the kids.

We also offer:

- Emergency Relief
- Parenting Programs/Workshops
- Integrated Family Services

View all programs and services on our website at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au)