

About family dispute resolution

Roundtable Dispute Management (RDM) is a family dispute resolution service run by Victoria Legal Aid.

Please read this information carefully, and get legal advice if you need to.

What is family dispute resolution?

Family dispute resolution (FDR) is a process where a family dispute resolution practitioner helps parties to a family law dispute to isolate the issues, develop and consider options, and work towards an agreement.

Where you are working out parenting arrangements, you are encouraged to focus on the best interests of the child (as the most important consideration) and the parenting responsibilities of each parent.

Is FDR always appropriate?

FDR may not always be appropriate such as when a party has been exposed to family violence and is unable to negotiate freely.

Either party can end the process at any time.

Confidentiality at RDM

Evidence of anything said or any admission made in FDR cannot be admitted in court or any proceedings unless the evidence is required to establish child abuse or the risk of child abuse.

Any communication made in the course of RDM must not be disclosed unless this is necessary to protect a child from child abuse, prevent actual or threatened harm to person or property, where this is necessary to comply with the law, or by consent.

Note: RDM operates under the provisions of the Legal Aid Act (Vic) 1978. It is a serious offence to disclose confidential information from the RDM process and penalties apply. Please seek legal advice on this issue should you require further explanation.

Your RDM conference chairperson

Your family dispute resolution practitioner will not give you legal advice. Each party has the right to get legal advice at any stage of FDR.

All RDM chairpersons are registered on the Family Dispute Resolution Register maintained by the Commonwealth Attorney-General Department. Please see the reverse side of this document for individual Chairpersons qualifications.

Is there a fee to use RDM ?

RDM does not charge a fee for parties participating in FDR.

Guidelines for using the RDM service

RDM asks everyone involved in using the service to commit to:

- making sure that the safety of each person is the priority
- making a genuine effort to reach an agreement
- being active in making decisions
- focusing on the children.

Qualifications of RDM Chairpersons

Tony O'Dwyer	B.A, B.S.W, M.A.A.S.W.
Terry O'Brien	B.A., M.S.W., Grad. Dip. Health Admin.
Kalman Rubin	BGS Psychology, MSSA, MAPs, VPB
Tony Gee	BA.Grad Dip Ed Psych
Jane Picton	BSW, MSW
Susan Hamilton-Green	LLB Grad. Dip ADR, Accred. Specialist Mediator & Family Law, LIV
Mark Hebblewhite	LLB Barrister & Mediator
Jill Raby	B. Juris. LLB
Paul Ban	BSW Grad. Dip. Abstud MSW MA
Walter Ibbs	BSW

This information is provided by Roundtable Dispute Management under Regulation 63 of the Family Law Regulations. It has been sent to each RDM client.