

## Can I get an interpreter?

Yes. Ask us for an interpreter in your language.

You can also ring the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask to be put through to Victoria Legal Aid.

## Where can I get more legal information?

More information is on our website at [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)

We also have a range of free booklets in English and other languages. You can get the booklets on our website or at any Victoria Legal Aid office.

## About our services

We can help you with criminal matters, family breakdown, family violence, child support, immigration, social security, mental health, discrimination, guardianship and administration, tenancy, debt and traffic offences.

Our free legal services include:

- information over the phone
- seminars and workshops
- legal advice across Victoria, including most courts and tribunals.

If you want ongoing help from a lawyer, you can apply for a grant of legal assistance. Getting a grant will depend on your financial situation and your legal problem. You can use a grant to:

- pay a lawyer to help reach agreement or speak for you in court
- go to our family dispute resolution service.

**Call us to find out how we can help you.**

## Our Legal Information Service

Open Monday to Friday, 8.45 am to 5.15 pm

Telephone 9269 0120 or country callers 1800 677 402



Contact us for free information about the law and how we can help you.

You can speak to someone in English or other languages.

## Our offices

Open Monday to Friday, 8.45 am to 5.15 pm

<b>Bairnsdale</b>	<b>5153 1975</b>
<b>Ballarat</b>	<b>5329 6222</b>
<b>Bendigo</b>	<b>5448 2333</b>
	<b>Toll free 1800 254 500</b>
<b>Broadmeadows</b>	<b>9302 8777</b>
<b>Dandenong</b>	<b>9767 7111</b>
<b>Frankston</b>	<b>9784 5222</b>
<b>Geelong</b>	<b>5226 5666</b>
	<b>Toll free 1800 196 200</b>
<b>Horsham</b>	<b>5381 6000</b>
	<b>Toll free 1800 177 638</b>
<b>Melbourne</b>	<b>9269 0120</b>
<b>Morwell</b>	<b>5134 8055</b>
<b>Preston</b>	<b>9416 6444</b>
<b>Ringwood</b>	<b>9259 5444</b>
<b>Shepparton</b>	<b>5823 6200</b>
<b>Sunshine</b>	<b>9300 5333</b>
<b>Warrnambool</b>	<b>5559 7222</b>

All offices are accessible to people with a disability.

## Our public law library

Open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm  
350 Queen Street, Melbourne

## Our website

[www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)

October 2008

# Roundtable Dispute Management

## Victoria Legal Aid

 **Victoria Legal Aid**  
Roundtable Dispute Management

## What is Roundtable Dispute Management?

Roundtable Dispute Management (RDM) is a service that helps parents going through separation or divorce resolve their family disputes.

### Who can use RDM?

To use RDM, at least one of the people involved in the family dispute must apply and get a grant of legal assistance from Victoria Legal Aid (VLA). For more information speak to your lawyer.

### Why should I use RDM?

We can help you have more control over the decisions that affect your family's future. Our service can save you time, stress and costly court action. Also the law says that you should usually try to resolve disputes about parenting matters before you go to court.

### How can RDM help me?

We can help you:

- work out decisions that support your children's needs
- develop a parenting plan or court order which sets out arrangements for the care of your children
- sort out financial issues, such as child support for children over 18 years old
- improve family communication and co-operation
- reach solutions that work for you.

### How much does RDM cost?

The service is free. However, you may have to pay your lawyer's fees. You can use RDM without a lawyer, but we recommend getting legal advice. We can help you find a lawyer.

# Roundtable Dispute Management

## Victoria Legal Aid

If you can not afford a lawyer, you can apply for a grant of legal assistance. Contact us for information.

### How does RDM work?

A case manager will assess whether RDM is right for you. If you are invited to use the service, you will get a case manager to help you prepare for the RDM conference.

The conference is run by an experienced chairperson to help you sort out your family disputes. You may need a second conference. Your case manager will offer you support after your RDM conference.

### Are children involved in RDM?

All decisions are focussed on your children's needs. However, children cannot attend the conference and RDM does not provide childcare. Sometimes, if everyone agrees, RDM can arrange for children to speak to a qualified child consultant. We call this Kid's Talk. Speak to RDM or your lawyer for more information.

### Is the conference confidential?

Any information you give is confidential and cannot be used in court. It is a serious offence to disclose confidential information and penalties apply.

This rule does not apply where RDM:

- is concerned for a child's welfare
- believes that a person or property is at risk
- becomes aware of possible fraud or a criminal act.

### What if I do not feel safe?

We can make sure the conference takes place in a safe environment. For example, we can arrange a telephone conference or separate rooms so you do not have to have contact with the other person. Tell us if you are worried about your safety. We want you to feel safe.

### What do I need to do to use RDM?

We ask everyone using the service to:

- make sure each person's safety is the first priority
- make a genuine effort to reach solutions
- being active in making decisions
- focus on the needs of the children.

### Where can I attend a conference?

You can attend a conference at many locations throughout Victoria. If we do not have a location near you, we can also arrange a telephone conference from anywhere in Australia. Call us to find out how we can help you.

### How do I contact RDM?

For more information call RDM on 9269 0500 or 1800 136 832 (country callers).