



Research Participants Required

Good Evidence, Safe Outcomes in Parenting Matters Involving Family Violence: Analysing Current Family Report Writing Practice

The following research activity has been reviewed via Griffith University arrangements for the conduct of research involving human participation. If you choose to participate, you will be provided with more detailed participant information, including who you can contact if you have any concerns.

Research Team Contact

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What is the purpose of the research?

It is important that reliable evidence is provided to inform judicial decision making in contested parenting disputes before the family courts. Family reports provide crucial evidence in parenting cases and are often the only social science evidence before the court. For this reason family reports need to provide the best evidence possible to enable the protection of children and their caregivers. Family reports are also influential in pre-trial negotiations, family dispute resolution and in the making of decisions in relation to legal aid. The impact of family reports in both court and out-of-court contexts is therefore significant. The purpose of this research is to investigate ways in which domestic violence is currently dealt with in the process of family report writing

Are you looking for people like me?

The research team are looking to undertake focus groups with people who provide support to victims of domestic violence and children in or during family law proceedings including: 1) Legal Aid lawyers, 2) lawyers in private practice, 3) Women's Legal Service staff, 4) domestic violence service providers, and 5) family therapists/psychologists in private practice.

What will you ask me to do?

Your participation will involve completing a focus group with others in your occupational area and a member of our research team. The focus groups will take approximately 1-1.5 hours to complete and will be conducted at Griffith University or other suitable location. During the focus group we will be exploring family report writing practice from your perspective to better understand current approaches and gain insights into how current practice might be improved. Everything you say during the focus group is confidential.

Are there any risks for me in taking part?

We do not foresee any risks to you as a result of participating in the focus group.

Are there any benefits for me in taking part?

There are no direct benefits to you. However, as a result of your participation we will be making recommendations with regard to improving the family report writing process and report quality. These recommendations will seek to ensure that family reports in the future provide the best available evidence to inform judicial decision-making in parenting disputes involving domestic violence. This may in turn result in better outcomes for your clients.

Will I be compensated for my time?

We will not be providing you with direct compensation but refreshments will be provided to you during the focus group.

Who is funding this research?

The project is funded by the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration.

I am interested – what should I do next?

If you would like to participate in this study, please contact Dr Samantha Jeffries for further details. You can contact Dr Jeffries by phone 0458 039 965 or email s.jeffries@griffith.edu.au. You will be provided with further information to ensure that your decision and consent to participate is fully informed.

Thank You!

Griffith University Ethics Number: **CCJ/03/15/HREC**