



Family Advocacy and Support Services

Information for service providers

If your client has been impacted by family violence and has a very urgent family law issue, then Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS) may be able to help.

FASS includes both a duty lawyer and social support worker helping people with their legal and social needs.

The duty lawyer service can give legal advice for very urgent family law issues (see reverse for examples).

The support worker can help with safety planning and connecting clients with social support services.

Call 1300 65 11 88 for more information, or your client can attend a Legal Aid Queensland office.

Please note:

- ❖ The service only operates in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville from 9am — 4pm.
- ❖ Clients must attend in person when help is needed (no appointments are available).
- ❖ No child minding facilities are available.
- ❖ Clients may experience delays during busy periods.



Family
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Legal Aid
QUEENSLAND

Examples of very urgent legal issues:

A child is about to be taken overseas without a parent's consent, particularly in situations where:

- ❖ the person taking the child has the child's passport or can access other travel documents
- ❖ the time the person is leaving the country is unknown or within the next 72 hours
- ❖ the person taking the child has connections to overseas countries
- ❖ the person taking the child could intend to permanently relocate them
- ❖ the child is being taken to a non-Hague convention country.

A child has just been taken from their primary carer; the other person will not return the child; and there is a risk of harm and concern for the child's safety and wellbeing due to factors such as:

- ❖ illegal drug use
- ❖ regular excessive alcohol consumption
- ❖ untreated or severe mental health issues
- ❖ family violence, including previous harm to the child
- ❖ disability (impacting ability to care for child)
- ❖ previous or current child safety involvement
- ❖ previous history of violent or sexual offences against children
- ❖ the child is very young (eg under two years old) and solely reliant on their carer for basic needs to be met
- ❖ the child has disability or other special medical needs that can't be met by the person who has the child.



Australian Government

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