



Clark & Associates Mediation Services

Family Dispute Resolution | Property Settlement | Restorative Justice

Care Complaints | Commercial | Workplace | Neighbour | Small Claims

Child-Inclusive, Family Dispute Resolution Service

Clark & Associates Mediation Services offer child-inclusive family dispute resolution services in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast.

Our process has been designed to allow parents to hear, and meaningfully consider, their child/children's experiences of separation and relationship in a highly supportive, resolution focused environment.

Our highly trained Child Expert Consultants works with our skilled and Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners to deliver valuable and transformative support to families experiencing separation.

Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners

Kate is the Legal Director of Clark & Associates and holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours), Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology), Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. Prior to holding accreditation as a Nationally Accredited Mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, Kate practised as a solicitor in family and criminal law.

Linda holds a Bachelor of Laws, Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice and a Graduate Certificate in Education (Higher). She is a Nationally Accredited Mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner.

Lily is a barrister-at-law and is a Nationally Accredited Mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner.

Child Expert Consultants

Sophie is a Clinical Psychologist, Family Report Writer, Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and Triple P provider. She holds a Master of Psychology (Clinical) and Postgraduate Diploma of Professional Psychology. She has a lengthy background in family separation work.

Hollie is a Registered Psychologist, Family Report Writer and Registered Teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Psychology Honours), Bachelor of Communications and Graduate Diploma of Education. She has a lengthy background in child-focused settings.

Laura is a Family Consultant, Report Writer and Social Worker. She holds a Master of Social Work and has over 16 years' experience working as a Social Scientist with children, young people and families.



Clark & Associates Mediation Services

Family Dispute Resolution | Property Settlement | Restorative Justice

Care Complaints | Commercial | Workplace | Neighbour | Small Claims

The process explained

Generally, child-inclusive mediation is suitable for children over 5 years of age, however we will be responsive to each child and family and tailor our service to the developmental and family needs of each matter.

- Step 1: Referral of matter to Clark & Associates Mediation Services.
- Step 2: Each parent participates in individual, confidential intake sessions with the Mediator.
- Step 3: Information package and child expert forms provided to each parent. These forms are to be completed and returned to Clark & Associates Mediation Services for use by the Mediator and Child Expert.
- Step 4: Each parent participates in a further intake session with the Child Expert.
- Step 5: Each child meets with the Child Expert to participate in age appropriate, relaxed, play-therapy-style assessment and interview.
- Step 6: The Mediator, Child Expert and both parents attend mediation. Children do not attend the mediation itself.
- Step 7: The Mediator facilitates the mediation and consistently invites the parents to consider and focus on the best interests of their child/ren having regard to the views of the child/ren and their developmental needs.

The Child Expert carefully conveys to the parents the issues which emerged during assessment with the child/ren and provides input into how arrangements could be made to meet their needs. The Child Expert will also provide information about developmental theory and the needs of children based on their developmental age.

In summary the process

Generally, child-inclusive mediation is suitable for children over 5 years of age, however we will be responsive to each child and family and tailor our service to the developmental and family needs of each matter.

- Facilitates the involvement of children in dispute resolution via assessment of their experiences;
- Provides them with an opportunity to be heard in an age appropriate manner;
- Allows core themes from assessment to be incorporated into negotiations;
- Introduces current and intimate material into the dispute resolution process;
- Considers the developmental needs of children in any agreement reached.

Our Fees

For current up to date information in relation to our fees, please visit our website.



Clark & Associates Mediation Services

Family Dispute Resolution | Property Settlement | Restorative Justice

Care Complaints | Commercial | Workplace | Neighbour | Small Claims

Our fees for child-inclusive mediations cover the services provided by both the Mediator and Child Expert.

As at January 2024 they are as follows:

- Full-Day (8 hour) child-inclusive mediation: \$7,260 (inclusive of GST);
- If further time is required on the day: \$484 per hour (inclusive of GST);
- Room hire (at cost), Buderim Rooms are included.

Why would parents consider these options?

Research has shown that child-inclusive interventions in Family Dispute Resolution Mediation can result in the following immediate effects:

- Children report positive outcomes for the family;
- Children's emotional responses improve;
- Reduction in conflict;
- Parents report improvement in dispute management;
- Parents are more satisfied with the arrangements agreed on;
- Agreements were more durable and workable.