



DAWSON

FAMILY LAW

WHAT IS A FAMILY REPORT?

A Family Report is a report written following an independent assessment of a family. The process is undertaken by a Family Report Writer who is a qualified Psychologist or Social Worker with experience in dealing with separated families. A Family Report may be prepared following a Court order, or by agreement between the parties.

>>> The Process

First, the Report Writer meets with all members of the family, usually separately. The Report Writer will also read all Court documents and records (if the report is Court ordered) or all documents the parties agree to provide (if the report is being prepared by agreement).

Next, the Report Writer will prepare their report based on the documents and meetings. The report will assess the "best interest" factors within Section 60CC of the Family Law Act, including risk factors, the children's views, their relationships, developmental needs and other factors. Once the report is finalised, it will be released to both parties, their Lawyers and if Court ordered, the Registrar/Judge.

>>> Preparing for your meeting

Before the Family Report meetings, you should:

1. Prepare a list of concerns or issues that you want to talk about. Give clear examples and suggest solutions;
2. Explain to your child or children that they will be meeting with someone to talk about their views and needs. You must not coach your child on what to say - Family Report Writers are skilled at recognising when this has happened and it reflects poorly on that parent; and
3. Get independent legal advice from a family law Solicitor.



4722 2733



law@dawsonfamilylaw.com.au



www.dawsonfamilylaw.com.au

A fresh start