

# **FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTITIONER OBLIGATIONS – ACCREDITATION**

This Fact Sheet outlines the ongoing accreditation obligations of family dispute resolution (FDR) practitioners under the *Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008* (the FDRP Regulations). It includes information and common questions about:

1. notification of information
2. ongoing professional development
3. professional standards

Information about a practitioner's obligations relating to the provision of FDR services and to their clients can be found on the Fact Sheet named: FDR Practitioner Obligations – to Clients.

## **1. Notification of information**

To remain accredited as an FDR practitioner under the Accreditation Standards set out in the FDRP Regulations, a person must:

- a) comply with any request for information by the Secretary (of the Attorney-General's Department)
- b) notify the Secretary about any change in the person's name and contact details within 28 days of the change
- c) notify the Secretary, within 7 days of the occurrence of the event, about any matter that may affect the person's accreditation, including in relation to:
  - (i) complying with State/Territory laws relating to employment of persons working with children
  - (ii) criminal convictions
  - (iii) ceasing to provide FDR services
  - (iv) ceasing to have access to a complaints mechanism/s

### **How do I notify the Secretary of any information?**

All information must be provided in writing to the Practitioner Accreditation Unit. The contact details are:

Practitioner Accreditation Unit  
Family Law Branch  
Attorney-General's Department  
3-5 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600  
Ph: 1800 025 255  
Fax: 02 6141 5452  
E-mail: [fdrregistration@ag.gov.au](mailto:fdrregistration@ag.gov.au)  
[www.ag.gov.au/fdrproviders](http://www.ag.gov.au/fdrproviders)

## **Can I suspend my accreditation if I don't have access to a complaints mechanism?**

Yes. Please refer to the Fact Sheet named Suspension and Cancellation of Accreditation for more information.

## **2. Professional development obligations**

Under the FDRP Regulations, accredited FDR practitioners must undertake at least 24 hours of education, training or professional development in FDR in every two year period from the date of accreditation.

Practitioners should remain up to date on the legal environment in which they provide services, and developments in the theory and practice of dispute resolution.

It is not intended for work undertaken in the regular duties of the provision of FDR services to be considered as education, training or professional development.

## **What is considered 'ongoing professional development'?**

Practitioners should aim to be familiar with relevant case law and participate in or attend, for example, a mix of: training, conferences or seminars relevant to the provision of FDR; and presenting or reading academic papers. Supervision of a trainee FDR practitioner may be considered professional development where the practitioner can demonstrate relevance to maintaining currency in the FDR field.

Ongoing professional development does not include day to day FDR work.

## **How do FDR practitioners prove that they meet ongoing professional development requirements?**

FDR practitioners should maintain relevant documentation of any education, training or professional development they have completed in, for example, a log book.

An Authorised Officer may request this information at any time for audit purposes.

## **How do I prove that I have completed the requirements of ongoing professional development?**

Practitioners should maintain relevant documentation of any education, training or professional development they have completed in, for example, a log book.

Practitioners are not required to send documentation to the Practitioner Accreditation Unit unless requested to do so by an Authorised Officer for audit purposes.

## **3. Professional standards**

Clients undertaking FDR require and deserve a level of professionalism from accredited FDR practitioners to help resolve parenting matters. It is expected that practitioners uphold reasonable professional standards in the provision of FDR services at all times.