



# Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner ongoing obligations to remain accredited

This Fact Sheet outlines the ongoing accreditation obligations of family dispute resolution (FDR) practitioners under the *Family Law Act 1975* (the Family Law Act) and the *Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008* (the Regulations). It includes information about:

1. notification of information
2. ongoing professional development
3. professional standards
4. conditions of accreditation

Information about a practitioner's obligations relating to the provision of FDR services and to their clients can be found in the Fact Sheet named: *FDR Practitioner Obligations - to clients* available on the [Information for FDR practitioners'](#) web page.

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An accredited FDR practitioner must comply with the obligations set out in Part 3 of the Regulations.

Obligations include: notifying the Practitioner Accreditation Unit of the Attorney-General's Department of any information that may have an effect on the accreditation of an FDR practitioner; the requirement to undertake ongoing professional development; maintaining professional standards, and any conditions imposed on practitioners.

## 1. Notification of information

An accredited FDR practitioner is obligated under the Accreditation Standards set out in the Regulations, (see Regulation 13) 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

\*Contact details include employment information. Where practitioners are employed by an organisation funded by the government to provide FDR services or are engaged on a panel such as Legal Aid to provide FDR services, this information should be kept current in the FDR Register. However, it is not necessary to advise of changes regarding (for example) full-time to part-time work.

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

E-mail: [fdrregistration@ag.gov.au](mailto:fdrregistration@ag.gov.au)

More information is available from [www.ag.gov.au/fdrproviders](http://www.ag.gov.au/fdrproviders)

## Suspension and cancellation of accreditation

Please refer to the Fact Sheet named: *Suspension and Cancellation of accreditation* for detailed information.

## 2. Ongoing professional development

Under the 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.

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. Therefore, ongoing professional development does not include day to day FDR work.

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.

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.

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.

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.

### 4. Conditions of accreditation

A condition of accreditation is to hold, or have access through an employer, professional indemnity insurance. Insurance coverage is important to ensure FDR practitioners, and their clients, as consumers of FDR services, are protected from injury or damage which may occur in the course of, or as a result of, services provided by the practitioner.

If an accredited FDR practitioner meets all other accreditation requirements but does not have professional indemnity insurance coverage, accreditation may be permitted on a conditional basis. The practitioner will not be able to provide FDR services until covered by professional indemnity insurance. While accredited on a conditional basis, the practitioner will be required to meet all other ongoing obligations to continue to meet the Accreditation Standards.