

FAMILY ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Who we are

The Family Advocacy and Support Service (FASS) is a specialist family violence service that provides legal and social support services to clients affected by family violence in the family law courts.

The FASS is made up of lawyers and support workers. Lawyers provide duty services to clients to assist with their family law and family violence issues. There are two social support services. One support service assists women affected by family violence with their social welfare needs, and another support service assists men affected by family violence with their social welfare needs.

There is no cost involved with seeing a lawyer or support service from the FASS. Our lawyers are separate from other Legal Aid NSW lawyers. This means we can provide assistance even if clients are in dispute with someone who is receiving help from another Legal Aid office.

Where are we

The FASS provides legal and social support at the below Family Law Court Registries:

- Sydney
- Newcastle
- Parramatta
- Wollongong

Who we help

We can help people affected by family violence with their legal and social needs. This include victims of family violence as well as people with allegations of family violence made against them. Accessing the services does not mean you admit the allegations. We can also help extended family members, like grandparents.

Social support services are available to all people affected by family violence. This includes people represented by a private, panel, CLC or Legal Aid NSW lawyer, as well as people who are self-represented.

How we can help

The FASS lawyers can help with problems like:

- Sorting out arrangements for children
- Sorting out property problems after separation
- Getting a divorce
- Help with getting an ADVO
- Help sorting out problems with Community Services (FACS)
- Help with victims support

These services will be provided as duty services. Duty services may include legal advice, help with Court documents and/or appearing in Court (depending on the circumstances). We can book an interpreter to assist.

The FASS support services can help with:

- Assessing your social needs and making appropriate referrals to services that can assist
- Providing information, non-legal advocacy and court support to you during the family law court process
- Providing advocacy on your behalf with organisations such as the Police, Housing NSW and Victims Services, and especially in relation to ADVOs.
- Risk assessment and safety planning
- Talking to the Family Court about your safety
- Referrals to behaviour change programs and other assistance, if appropriate.

How to refer

Clients can attend the Family Law Courts registry and ask to see the duty lawyer or support worker at:

Parramatta Level 2, 1 – 3 George Street Parramatta	Sydney Level 4, 97-99 Goulburn Street Sydney	Newcastle Level 4, 61 Bolton Street Newcastle	Wollongong Level 1, 43 Burelli Street Wollongong
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For legal assistance - Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.00pm. No appointment required. For more information, call 02 9219 6300.

For social support

Female clients - Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.00pm. No appointment required.

Parramatta 0478 825 759	Sydney 0431 253 289 Specialist Indigenous Support Worker available Fridays	Newcastle 0428 568 207	Wollongong 0411 103 471
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Male clients - No appointment required. Referrals can be made at all times on 1300 003 277 (1300 00 FASS) via a message bank or by the emails set out below.

Parramatta fassparramatta@ransw.org.au Wednesdays, 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.00pm	Sydney fasssydney@ransw.org.au Mondays, 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.00pm
Newcastle fassnewcastle@ransw.org.au Mondays, 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.00pm	Wollongong fasswollongong@ransw.org.au Tuesdays, 9.30am to 1pm