

# Information for Participants: Children's issues – Obligations of Advisers

Section 63DA of the *Family Law Act 1975*

1. You can enter into a **Parenting Plan** about the arrangements for your child(ren).
2. A Parenting Plan may deal with one or more of the following:
  - a) Who your child(ren) live with;
  - b) What time your child(ren) spend time with;
  - c) Who is responsible for the parental responsibility for your child(ren);
  - d) How will communication/consultation take place;
  - e) How much communication your child(ren) will have with his/her parents;
  - f) Any maintenance contributions for your child(ren);
  - g) What is the process for resolving disputes;
  - h) How to change the plan in future; and
  - i) Any other aspect of the care, welfare or development of your child(ren).
3. If necessary, you can be referred to private family law firm(s), Legal Aid WA, and/or Community Legal Centres for assistance in preparing a Parenting Plan.
4. A Parenting Plan **may** override a current parenting order made in the Family Court. Please ask your lawyer about this.
5. If in future you are having difficulties complying with the terms of a Parenting Plan/Parenting Order, you can seek legal advice from a family lawyer about your options to resolve the issue. You can also seek help from a family counsellor or Family Relationships Centre.
6. If the Court is made to make an order regarding your child(ren), the Court will consider any recent Parenting Plan when considering what would be in your child(ren)'s best interests.

## Equal Time

1. You should consider your child(ren) spending **Equal Time** with both parents **if** that arrangement is reasonably practicable and in the best interests of your child(ren).

## Substantial & Significant Time

1. If it is not reasonably practicable and in the best interests of your child(ren) to have **Equal Time** with both parents, you should consider your child(ren) spending **Substantial & Significant Time** with both parents **if** that arrangement is reasonably practicable and in the best interests of your child(ren).