**Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross-Examination Register**

**Expression of Interest**

Please complete this form if you are a private practitioner or barrister seeking to be a member of the Tasmania Legal Aid Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross -Examination Scheme – Register of Practitioners (Cross-Examination Scheme Register).

Expressions of interest for inclusion on the Cross-Examination Scheme Register are to be submitted to the Associate Director – Legal Practice, Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA). Practitioners will be advised of the outcome of their expression of interest for inclusion on the Register within 28 days.

Further information regarding the scheme is available on the TLA website <https://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/latest-news/family-violence-cross-examination-scheme/>

Please complete and submit this form electronically, along with any relevant attachments to grants.officer@legalaid.tas.gov.au.

# Your details

|  |
| --- |
| Name: |
| Firm: |
| Address: |
| Email Address: |
| Telephone: |

# Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for inclusion on the Register practitioners must have:

1. ***Three years post admission experience, including demonstrated experience in the family law jurisdiction;***

Please provide or attach details of your experience relevant to this criterion

1. ***Recent family law trial experience including having conducted cross examination;***

Please provide or attach details of your experience relevant to this criterion:

1. ***The capacity to interact with persons affected by family violence and understand the issues impacting on these persons and their lives; and have undertaken CPD in relation to family violence within the last 2 years (or have registered to attend CPD within the following 3 months of your application);***

Please provide or attach details relevant to this criterion including a list of relevant CPD events or training:

# Other Relevant Eligibility Requirements:

1. Have you ever been convicted of criminal offences or are subject to criminal proceedings including but not limited to family violence related offences?

Yes  No

If yes please provide details: ……………………………………………………………………..

……………………………………………………………………………………………………..

1. Are you currently, or have you ever been, subject to a family violence order or a respondent to an application for a family violence order,

Yes  No

If yes please provide details: ……………………………………………………………………..

………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Are you or have you ever been subject to professional disciplinary proceedings under the Legal Profession Act or have been found to have breached your professional code of conduct or similar, and

Yes  No

If yes please provide details: ……………………………………………………………………..

………………………………………………………………………………………………………

I acknowledge and accept the terms of the Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties Register and confirm that the contents of my Expression of Interest are true.

Signed: …………………………………………………………………………

Dated: …………………………………………………………………………

**Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross Examination of Parties SCHEME**

**Register of Legal Practitioners**

1. **Background**

The *Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross‑examination of Parties) Act 2018* was passed by in late 2018.

Under the Act, personal cross-examination is prohibited in family law proceedings where there is **an allegation of family violence** between two parties **and** one or more of the following applies:

* *either party has been convicted of, or is charged with, an offence involving violence, or a threat of violence, to the other party*
* *a family violence order (other than an interim order) applies to both parties*
* *an injunction under section 68B or 114 of the* ***Family Law Act 1975*** *for the personal protection of either party is directed against the other party, or*
* *the court makes an order that the mandatory requirements apply to the cross‑examination.*

The provisions relating to cross-examinations began from **10 September 2019**.

Where a ban is imposed cross‑examination must be conducted by a **legal practitioner** acting on behalf of the examining party.

The Commonwealth is providing funding, to be administered by the Tasmania Legal Aid, to pay legal practitioners to represent parties where a personal cross-examination ban order is made.

1. **The Register**

**2.1** The Family Violence and Cross-Examination of Parties Register (the Register) is established pursuant to section 22 of the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1990 (*the Act*).*

**2.2** The Register records the names of practitioners who are willing to represent parties eligible for assistance under section 102NA the *Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross‑examination of Parties) Act 2018* and who have been accepted by the Tasmania Legal Aid for inclusion on the Register.

**2.3** To be eligible for inclusion on the Register practitioners must have:

1. Three years post admission experience, including demonstrated experience in the family law jurisdiction;
2. Recent family law trial experience including having conducted cross examination;
3. the capacity to interact with persons affected by family violence and understand the issues impacting on these persons and their lives; and have undertaken CPD in relation to family violence within the last 2 years (or have registered to attend CPD prior to 10 September 2019);

**2.4** Notwithstanding a person meeting the criteria in 2.3, a person may be refused inclusion on the Register if they:

a) have been convicted of criminal offences or are subject to criminal proceedings including but not limited to family violence related offences, or

b) are subject to a family violence order or a respondent to an application for a family violence order, or

c) are subject to professional disciplinary proceedings or have been found to have breached their professional code of conduct or similar, and

such conduct, order or proceedings is considered to make it inappropriate to include them on the Register.

**2.5** The maintenance of the Register, including the appointment, refusal to appoint or the removal of a practitioner from the register will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of section 22 of the Act.

**2.6** To be considered for inclusion on the Register practitioners must send to the Director an expression of interest that addresses the criteria in clause 2.3.

**2.7** Practitioners will be advised of the outcome of their expression of interest for inclusion on the Register within 28 days.

**2.8** If a practitioner seeks removal of their name from the Register an email requesting removal should be addressed to the Director, Tasmania Legal Aid and forwarded via email to [grants.officer@legalaid.tas.gov.au](mailto:grants.officer@legalaid.tas.gov.au)