

# Cross-examination scheme

Anyone can talk to a lawyer for free at Tasmania Legal Aid.

To get free legal information call 1300 366 611, drop into our Hobart or Launceston office (no appointment necessary) or use the Legal Talk chat function on our website. We are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

A lawyer can listen to your story and help identify the next steps you can take.

If there is an allegation of family violence in a family law case the court may tell you that there is a ban on personal cross-examination. This means that cross-examination of the other party must be conducted by a lawyer representing you.

## What are my options if there is a ban on me cross-examining a witness?

If you have been told by the court that there is a ban on personal cross-examination you can:

- engage your own lawyer, or
- use this form to apply to the *Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross Examination of Parties Scheme* (the Scheme) for a lawyer.

**If you do not have a lawyer, you cannot cross-examine the other party. You must consider getting a lawyer now.**

## What will it cost me?

Access to this Scheme is not limited by a means or merit test but you may be asked to contribute to the cost of the legal representation. This will depend on your ability to pay and your circumstances. Conditions apply to legal representation under the Scheme and ongoing representation is not automatic.

Legal representation under the Scheme will be available for the hearing (generally the final hearing) where cross-examination occurs. It includes preparing for that hearing and, where appropriate, for late-stage legally assisted family dispute resolution.

## Do I need to agree to do anything?

For you to receive legal representation under the Scheme you must agree to the following **conditions**:

- follow your lawyer's advice
- tell your lawyer every thing he or she needs to know about your case
- provide any documents requested by us or your lawyer as soon as possible
- let us know if your address or phone number changes while you are receiving legal representation under the Scheme.

## What lawyer can do the cross-examination for me?

We maintain a Register of Legal Practitioners who have the skills and experience to do a cross-examination under this Scheme. These lawyers are:

**In the North:**

Hugo Aston	Barclay Churchill Lawyers
Julia Higgins	Bishops
Geoff Maguire	Bishops
Roger Murray	Murray & Associates
Sally Hunt	TLA
Fran McCracken	Grant Tucker
Claire Henderson	Walker Henderson Lawyers
Matthew Verney	Barrister
Trevor McKenna	Barrister
Todd Kovacic	Barrister
Nic Edmondson	Barrister

#### **In the South:**

Melissa Eddington	Ogilvie Jennings
Anna Lydon	PWB Lawyers
Trevor McKenna	Barrister
Mary-Anne Ryan	Barrister
Jessie Sawyer	Barrister
Michael Trezise	Barrister
Cassandra Jacobs	Jacobs Family Law
Todd Kovacic	Barrister
Nic Edmondson	Barrister
Matthew Verney	Barrister
Scott Royston	Barrister
Caroline Graves	Barrister
Matthew Strong	Barrister
Peter Slipper	Barrister

#### **In the North-West:**

Claire Henderson	Walker Henderson Lawyers
Joseph Peterson	Peterson Legal
Matthew Verney	Barrister

Information for legal practitioners:

## **I'm a legal practitioner – how do I join the register?**

We have established a Register of Legal Practitioners willing to represent parties that come within the scope of the scheme.

To be added to the Register of Legal Practitioners, please refer to the [Expression of Interest](#) for further information and complete to be submit to be added.

This is written for people who live in or who are affected by the laws of Tasmania, Australia. The law changes all the time – this information is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should talk to a lawyer before making a decision about what to do.