

CURRENT FAMILY LAW

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How lawyers and family dispute resolution practitioners can assist families work towards cooperative parenting arrangements – Donna Cooper and Mieke Brandon	
The compulsory dispute resolution requirements in family law parenting cases create new roles and obligations for both lawyers and family dispute resolution (FDR) practitioners. This article discusses how the legislative provisions impact on both sets of professionals in practice. It also highlights the increased importance of the dispute resolution advocacy role of lawyers and a new role for FDR practitioners as “gatekeepers” to family courts in cases requiring FDR certificates.	85
Preserving a facilitative process in family dispute resolution – Mieke Brandon	
Recent amendments to family law regulations mean that family dispute resolution practitioners will be required to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and attitudes in line with a facilitative approach to dispute resolution for separating or separated parents. This article concentrates on the “facilitative” aspects of this requirement, and sets out the elements of what competencies may be considered facilitative. Two case studies are used as an exercise to address practitioners’ understanding and reflection of how they might use a dispute resolution process to facilitate an outcome.	96
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