

Parenting Coordination

A new approach to parenting co-operatively after Court Orders

A Parenting Coordinator can assist with making quick decisions that impact your family and their involvement in helping you manage your Court orders will make sure you don't need to return to court again. They can encourage cooperation, reduce long term conflict, and help foster healthy relationships between parents and their children.



What is Parenting Coordination?

Parenting Coordination is a structured alternative dispute resolution process that can help separated parents to manage their shared parenting arrangements and responsibilities.

It is beneficial in situations where families are caught in a protracted dispute over parenting issues and are finding it difficult to parent cooperatively. It aims to help the parents:

- Keep the needs and best interests of the children top of mind
- Comply with parenting orders and parenting plans that are already in place
- Develop, implement and monitor successful parenting arrangements
- Communicate more effectively
- Peacefully resolve conflict without the intervention of a Court.

The use of a Parenting Coordinator can be requested by a Court by way of interim and final orders if the couple continually seek legal action over parenting disputes, or it can be recommended by a lawyer in an attempt to reduce both the time taken, and the expense, of litigation.

How can a Parenting Coordinator help you?

A Parenting Coordinator is a trained professional who can approach conflict objectively, suggest ways to resolve issues, mediate discussions between parties, and most importantly help to minimise the impact of parents' conflict on the children.

The main role of a Parenting Coordinator is to:

- Help parents to understand the impact their conflict is having on the children.
- Educate parents on effective communication and provide strategies and tools that can be used to reduce and minimise conflict.
- Assist parents to negotiate effective resolutions to their conflict.



Susan Warda

Partner, Mills Oakley Lawyers
Accredited Specialist in Family Law
Qualified Parenting Coordinator
Collaborative Law Professional

Contact

If you think that a Parenting Coordinator could be of assistance in resolving ongoing conflict over your parenting arrangements, or the Parenting Coordination process has been recommended to you by the Court, contact:

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Susan Warda: Qualified Parenting Coordinator

With over 30 years' experience, Susan Warda has played a vital role in helping families to resolve their complex family law matters outside of the Court system.

Susan and her children are part of a blended family and she is acutely aware of the potential impact that conflict between parents can have on children.

As a result, she is passionate about minimising the impact of post-separation conflict and the effective resolution of issues surrounding parenting plans, shared custody arrangements, child safety and international child abductions that fall under the Hague Convention. She has also previously acted as a Court-appointed Independent Children's Lawyer, representing children's interests in family disputes and giving them a 'voice' in proceedings.

Highly regarded within the profession, and sought after for her unique skills and experience, Susan is professional, compassionate, discreet and understanding – helping families to overcome conflict and develop the skills and techniques necessary to maintain healthy ongoing relationships.

How does it work?

One of the most important benefits of Parenting Coordination is the fact that it removes the need for lengthy, time consuming and expensive Court action. By resolving matters outside the Court, and learning how to co-parent more effectively, separated couples can save thousands of dollars in legal fees while minimising the impact on their children.

The Parenting Coordinator initially meets with each parent – separately - to get an understanding of the circumstances, the issues of concern, and the cause of the conflict.

Following these meetings, the Parenting Coordinator will arrange joint sessions with both parents (which can be conducted virtually rather than in the same location) to try and negotiate a resolution to any specific issues and provide ongoing assistance with communication. These joint sessions last for 1 – 1.5 hours each and continue on a regular basis (usually monthly) until the conflict between parties has been reduced and everyone involved feels that regular meetings are no longer necessary.

Either party can suggest meeting with the Parenting Coordinator if they feel it will be beneficial at a future date, even after the regular sessions have concluded.

Parenting Coordinators charge an hourly rate for facilitating the sessions, with the cost shared between the two parties for payment.