

About | Empower Family Law & Mediation

Canonical: <https://staging-empowerfamilylaw.yottadigital.net/about/>

Details:

At Empower Family Law, we understand how stressful and uncertain family law matters can feel. We listen carefully, provide clear advice tailored to your situation and guide you towards practical, achievable outcomes.

We also work closely with a trusted network of barristers, financial specialists, valuers, psychologists, family consultants and support professionals to ensure you receive the right advice at every stage.

From your first meeting, you'll understand where you stand, what your options are and what to expect next.

Your first 30-minute consultation is free.

[Book a consultation](#)

How we charge

At Empower Family Law our mission is to give our clients control over their family law dispute by arming them with expert advice, strategy and representation. We aim to navigate our clients through their family separation with the utmost care and attention to detail.

Your initial appointment

At your initial appointment we will listen to your instructions and provide you with legal advice on your rights, entitlements and options for settlement. You will leave your appointment with a thorough understanding of your options, your estimated legal costs and what to expect from us.

Your first time with us

Our initial appointments usually run for 1 to 1.5 hours, and we offer the first 30 minutes of the appointment at no charge to you. The balance of the first appointment is charged at our lawyer's hourly rate. If you would like more information about our first appointments, please call or email us.

Costs Agreement

After your first appointment, we will send you our Costs Agreement. This document sets out the terms of your engagement with us and gives you an estimate of your total legal costs.

Our services are billed at the lawyer's hourly rate. This means you are charged only for the time the lawyers spend completing work on your file.

We will be transparent with you about costs and charges throughout your matter. We will send you a tax invoice at the end of each month, or upon the conclusion of a significant event or Court hearing. The tax invoice details the work we have undertaken on your behalf. If at any time during your matter you have concerns about costs, we welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you.

Flexible and remote consultation

We understand that between work commitments and managing a family, it can be difficult to get into Melbourne CBD for an appointment with a lawyer.

At Empower Family Law & Mediation we offer flexible and remote consultations to assist you to get advice as soon as possible. We can conduct most consultations via Microsoft Teams, including initial consultations.

Please contact our team on (03) 7020 6542 to discuss your matter.

Inclusive family law support

We take the right of LGBTIQ+ people to receive expert advice, practical strategy and representation seriously. We work with married and de facto couples, parents and carers across a wide range of family structures, and provide advice tailored to each client's circumstances.

Meet the team

Stephanie Reid — Director and Principal

Renishka Naidoo-Weisse — Special Counsel

Vicki Zrajko — Solicitor

Stephanie Pearce — Practice Manager

Ann Marie Elenius — Senior Legal Assistant

Emily Waghorne — Finance Manager

Meet the full team

Speak with us

Call (03) 7020 6542 , email info@empowerfamilylaw.com.au , or book a consultation .

What approach does Empower Family Law & Mediation describe for working with clients?

The firm describes an approach based on listening carefully, explaining the client's position in plain language, developing a practical strategy and keeping the client informed. Family law problems can involve legal, financial and personal issues at once, so the first stage is to understand the client's priorities, the immediate risks and the information needed to give reliable advice. The firm also describes working with a network of barristers, financial specialists, valuers, psychologists, family consultants and support professionals where a matter requires expertise beyond the legal team. In practice, the mix of professionals depends on the issues: a valuation may be needed where an asset's value is disputed, while a family consultant or other support professional may be relevant in a parenting matter. No particular outcome can be promised; advice and strategy must be tailored to the evidence and circumstances.

How does the first appointment and charging process work?

The published information says an initial appointment usually runs for about one to one and a half hours, with the first 30 minutes offered at no charge. During the appointment, the lawyer listens to the

client's instructions, identifies relevant rights and options, discusses possible settlement pathways and explains what work may be required next. The balance of the appointment is charged at the lawyer's hourly rate. After the first appointment, the firm says it provides a Costs Agreement setting out the engagement terms and an estimate of total legal costs. Work is billed according to the time spent on the file, with invoices issued monthly or after a significant event or Court hearing. Actual cost depends on scope, urgency, complexity, disclosure, negotiations and whether Court work becomes necessary. Clients should ask questions whenever the proposed scope or estimate is unclear.

Can consultations be conducted remotely and what should I have ready?

The firm states that most consultations can be conducted remotely through Microsoft Teams, which can help clients who cannot readily attend the Melbourne CBD or who need advice around work and family commitments. The best format may depend on privacy, document access, accessibility needs and whether it is safe to communicate from the client's current location or device. Before the meeting, prepare a short chronology, current orders or agreements, important correspondence and a list of the outcomes or concerns you want to discuss. For financial matters, a summary of assets, liabilities, income, expenses and superannuation is useful. For parenting matters, outline the present care arrangements and any safety, health, school or communication issues. If information is incomplete, identify the gaps rather than postponing advice, especially where there may be urgency or a time limit.

How does the firm describe inclusive family law support?

The firm states that it works with married and de facto couples, parents and carers across varied family structures and takes seriously the right of LGBTIQ+ people to receive expert advice, strategy and representation. Inclusive service requires more than applying generic assumptions: legal advice should use the client's circumstances, relationships, parenting roles and goals rather than treating one family model as the default. Clients can help by explaining the names, roles and relationships that matter to them and raising any concern about privacy, communication or accessibility at the start. The legal rules may differ depending on whether a relationship was a marriage or a de facto relationship and on the specific issue being addressed. Tailored advice is therefore important before relying on broad descriptions of eligibility, time limits or likely process.