



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION



FAMILY LAW SETTLEMENT SERVICE PANEL

The Family Law Settlement Service (“FLSS”) is a mediation program that is a joint initiative between the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court, the New South Wales Bar Association and the Law Society of New South Wales.

It is administered by the Law Society’s Alternative Dispute Resolution section. The program is designed to avoid the costs, uncertainty and delays of having a dispute determined at a final hearing. The panel consists of solicitors and barristers who are also qualified mediators.

You will be required to conduct conflict of interest checks before agreeing to be appointed to the matter to ensure impartiality. There will also be certain reporting requirements that you will need to adhere to, for example, to advise the outcome of the mediation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Practitioners seeking appointment to the FLSS Panel must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Hold a current Practising Certificate and appropriate professional indemnity insurance to act as a mediator
- Have a minimum of 5 years’ practice as a Solicitor or Barrister
- Hold accreditation under the National Mediator Accreditation System (‘NMAS’)
- Have demonstrated, in the 3 years prior to appointment to the FLSS Panel, a substantial involvement in the area of Family Law; and
- Have devoted time to this area of practice, in each year of the past 3 years, that is not less than 25% of normal full-time practice; OR
- Is accepted for inclusion in the FLSS Panel on the basis of appropriate Family Law mediation and litigation experience as determined by the President and the Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society of New South Wales or his or her delegate.
- For referrals under the FLSS for parenting matters, practitioners must also be qualified Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners (“FDRPs”).

Successful applicants will be appointed to the FLSS Panel for a period of two years.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Applications to join the FLSS Panel will be determined by the President and the Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society of New South Wales

- Proof of national accreditation, qualifications and experience will be required.
- The list of mediators appointed to the panels will be published on the Law Society of New South Wales website.



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