

Welcome to the Family Court of Fiji Islands

The Family Court of Fiji Islands aims to provide a high standard of service and assistance to all users of the Court.

However, it is important for you to understand that there are some limitations on the assistance we can provide to you, because as the decision maker we have to be impartial. Most importantly, our court officers are not permitted to give legal advice. Here we set out clearly what we can and cannot provide.

WE CAN	WE CANNOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tell you what forms you may need to file for an application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give you legal advice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide you contact details for locally available legal aid services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpret orders made by a Judicial Officer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advise you of mediation/ counselling services available within the Court and with agencies in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tell you what the decision of the Court will be nor give you an opinion about what it might be.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • briefly explain and answer questions about how the Court works, its practices and procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tell you whether or not you should bring your case to Court. We strongly advise you to seek legal advice as to your rights before proceeding, especially concerning children and property.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give you blank copies of Court forms if you wish to proceed with an application or we can give you details of the Court's website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommend a certain lawyer to act on your behalf.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide Court lists and information on how to get a case listed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tell you what words to use in your court papers nor whether you have put forward enough information. However, we can check your papers for completeness (for example, we check for signatures, and that attachments are present and are signed by an authorised person).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give you information about how your case is progressing and the steps involved along the pathway to a trial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tell you what to say in court.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • usually answer questions about court requirements such as when certain documents need to be returned to the Court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • let you communicate with the Judge, other than at the trial.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give you an estimated time of when your matter is likely to proceed to a trial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change an order once the Court has made it. The only way that may be considered is by you making another application to the Court.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advise you how to go about modifying an existing order. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enforce an order made by the Court unless you file an application asking for enforcement.

THIS STATEMENT IS BASED ON A CONCEPT OF THE UTAH STATE COURTS AND DAVID L MOWER, DISTRICT JUDGE, AND IS MODELLED ON A WELCOME STATEMENT PRODUCED BY THE FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA