

Why am I going to see a Family Consultant



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Things change when parents separate and it can be a confusing time for everyone – especially for kids.

Now that you have two homes, your Mum and Dad need to decide about things like **where** you will live, **when** you will spend time with each of them, **what** you will do in the holidays and so on.



When parents can't agree, they can go to a family consultant at the Court to help them work things out.



This is what your parents have done.

Family consultants also talk to kids.

What is a Family Consultant?

Family consultants help kids
and Mums and Dads
solve problems.



Lots of families see family consultants.

What happens when I see a Family Consultant?

The family consultant will spend some time with
you and your brothers and sisters (if you have any)
and then they will see you by yourself.



FREE PARKING	Game on the weekend Sport		Training during the week Sport	Made a rep team Sport	Get a lift with Dad	MUSIC Lessons	PERFORMANCE	Touch the park	CLASSES Drama	Get out of homework
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Mum's House Clean your room	Mum's House Tidy the Kitchen	School holidays	Mum's House Play a game with Mum	Get a lift with Granny	Afternoon at swimming pool	Sleep OVER	BBQ at Pop's house	Hire a DVD	A family consultant will:

A family consultant will:

- answer your questions
- listen to your views and ideas, and
- tell the judge what you want.

Start here

How much you say to the family consultant is up to you, but it's okay to say what you think.

Lots of children worry that they will have to choose between their parents or have to talk about upsetting things.

You don't have to say anything you don't want to – and you won't have to choose between your Mum and Dad.

You can tell the family consultant if you are worried that what you say will upset your Mum or Dad. You and the family consultant will then work out the best way to tell your parents what you want them to know.





Who gets to know what I say?



After speaking to you, the family consultant will talk with your Mum and Dad about your feelings and ideas. They will then work with your Mum and Dad to try and decide what should happen next. If they can't agree, a judge will decide what will be best for your family.



Before the judge can decide, he or she will want the family consultant to write a report about your family. This is called a Family Report. The report will include information from your talk with the family consultant, including how you are thinking and feeling. You can ask the family consultant what is going to be in the report.

Your Mum and Dad will also read the report. If you are worried what they will think when they read the report, tell the family consultant.



You will not have to choose between your Mum and Dad.



If you are worried that what you say might upset your Mum and Dad, tell the family consultant first. You and the family consultant can then work out a way to tell your parents what you want them to know.



Kids don't go into the courtroom – so it's the family consultant's job to tell the judge what is important to you.



When parents separate, it is a confusing time for everyone. Remember that you are not alone.

What does a Judge do?

Parents talk to the judge in a courtroom. The courtroom is not a place for kids, so it's the family consultant's job to tell the judge what is important to you.

The judge reads the Family Report carefully. The judge also has many other things to think about before deciding what is best for you and your family.



It can be a hard time for you and your family while you wait to find out what the judge decides.

What happens next

After the judge decides, there might be some more changes in your family –



or things may stay the same.

If you want to
talk to someone else,
the Kids Help Line can help.



We care.
We listen.

Call
1800 55 1800

or go to
www.kidshelp.com.au

Kids Help Line
is Australia's only
free, confidential and
anonymous, 24 hour
telephone and online
counselling service
specifically for
young people aged
between 5 and 25.