

Our Top 5 Tips to Prepare for a Family Report

Tip 1 – Obtain Legal Advice

It is important you obtain legal advice from an experienced family lawyer so that you know what to expect. A family lawyer can also give you advice about what are appropriate arrangements to put in place.

Tip 2 – File Your Documents (if Your Matter is in Court)

Make sure you have filed your documents in the Court and provided them to the Family Consultant prior to the interviews with a Family Consultant. This will ensure the Family Consultant has the information to refer to if it is relevant. If your matter is not in Court a family lawyer can help you brief the Family Consultant with the important information.

Tip 3 – Be Familiar with the Facts

If your matter is in Court you should read the evidence in your Affidavit, your ex's affidavit and the Orders you have asked the Court make. The Family Consultant will ask you various questions and it is important the information and answers you give are consistent.

Tip 4 – How to Prepare the Children for the Interviews

- There is little you are allowed to do to prepare the children. You must not coach the children prior to or during the interview process. The Family Consultant may observe and report on any coaching which may impact what recommendations they make for the children to spend time or live with you.
- You could tell the children they are going to see someone who is helping you to work out the best way for them to spend time with important people in their lives. You could also give the children one of these Court brochures, depending on if they are between 5 – 8 - [CLICK HERE](#) one of the Court brochures.

Tip 5 – The Interviews

Prior to the interviews you should organise:

- Someone to be with you at the interviews to supervise the children (if needed) while you are being interviewed;
- Food, drinks and something to keep the children entertained; and
- A play activity to do with the children (depending on their age) as the Family Consultant will likely observe the children spending time with you.

How long the interview takes will depend on the issues and the number of people involved. You should block out the day.

During the interviews you should:

- Be honest and respectful;
- Voice any concerns you may have for the children; and
- Remain focused on what is in the children's best interests.

You need to be informed about what to expect prior to engaging a Family Consultant or attending your Court ordered Family Report interview. Contact the Family Law team at McInnes Wilson Lawyers today for tailored advice to suit your circumstances.