

CHILD PROTECTION SOLICITOR REFERRAL FORM

(Current as at Aug 2023)

These firms **MAY DO** legal aid

ALBURY WODONGA	
VAN NIEKERK LEGAL PO Box 242 WODONGA VIC 3689 Ph: 0428 477 497	CIANTAR GREINER 3 Stanley Street WODONGA VC 3690 Ph: 0421 905 868
SUSAN L ROBEY – NSW ONLY Suite 1, 522 Kiewa Street ALBURY NSW 2640 Ph: (02) 6021 7210	LEGAL AID NSW (ALBURY) – NSW ONLY Suite 1A, Level 1, 520 Swift Street ALBURY NSW 2640 Ph: (02) 6020 7200
KPW LAWYERS – NSW ONLY <div> <div>Level 1, 500 Dean Street ALBURY NSW 2640</div> <div>5 Sesame Ln WODONGA VIC 3690</div> </div> Ph: 1300 074 182	

WANGARATTA & REGION	
NANCY BATTIATO & ASSOCIATES Level 1, 107A Murphy Street WANGARATTA VIC 3676 Ph: (03) 5722 4177	JOSEPH BATTIATO 39 Ryley Street WANGARATTA VIC 3677 Ph: 0402 109 006

***Many firms offer a no obligation first appointment.
You should ask if this applies when you first call.***

 (02) 6055 8090

 cls@umfc.com.au

 Level 1, 9 Stanley Street, Wodonga 3690

 (02) 6055 8079

 www.hrcs.org.au

 PO Box 31, Wodonga VIC 3689


Upper Murray Family Care

This service is auspiced by UMFC and funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Victoria Legal Aid and Legal Aid NSW.
ABN 99 081 624 768 Reg No: A5357 ARBN 081 624 768

GENERAL ADVICE ABOUT CHOOSING & DEALING WITH LAWYERS

Remember – it is your choice who represents you. You need to feel comfortable with your solicitor and be confident they will act in your best interests.

1. Ring the lawyer first and discuss your needs. You should briefly explain your problems, if you have a preference for a male or female lawyer, and whether you need an interpreter. Ask if they will put in a Legal Aid application on your behalf if needed.
2. Ask if your first appointment will be free. If not, ask how much it will cost and when you are expected to pay.
3. Shop around. Ring more than one lawyer and compare their levels of experience and costs. There can be significant difference in costs between lawyers, depending on their levels of expertise.
4. In your first appointment, tell the lawyer you will decide if you will engage them after you get a written estimate of all costs and disbursements* and a written explanation of the process and options available to you.
5. Make sure you are involved in all the decisions about your case and ask your lawyer to explain everything in plain language. If you do not understand something, tell your lawyer and ask them to explain it again.
6. If you need further referrals, please call the Law Institute of Victoria on (03) 9607 9550 or the Law Society of New South Wales on 1800 422 713.
7. If you are not satisfied with your lawyer you have a right to lodge a complaint with the Law Institute of Victoria or the Law Society of New South Wales. Please aware that changing solicitors can be expensive. Lawyers are bound by professional rules of conduct, you can find out more about these at the website <https://www.liv.asn.au/PDF/For-Lawyers/Regulations/LPUL/Legal-Profession-Uniform-Law-Solicitors-- Rules>.

*Disbursements are fees for all services required in connection with a legal matter, apart from solicitor's fees. Disbursements may include expenses such as court filing and hearing fees, interpreter's fees and fees for the service of court documents such as subpoenas.