

FAMILY SEPARATION SERVICES

Sharon is a warm, empathic Clinical Psychologist who has experience and a non-biased consideration in working with families who are separating. She has a special interest in this population and has empathy and understanding for the challenging emotions often evident during this process.

Sharon acknowledges the complexities associated with family separation. She uses her competencies and skills in Mediation and Report Writing to work collaboratively with clients to ensure the best possible outcomes for their children.

Sharon engages in regular continuing professional practice development to ensure her skills are up to date and relevant. She seeks regular peer and/or formal supervision in accordance with the Australian Psychological Association's Code of Ethics.

Qualifications

Dr. of Psychology (Clinical)
Bachelor of Soc. Sciences (with Hons.)
Grad. Dip. of Family Dispute Resolution Practice



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“Gold Standard” Family Report writers recognise that better quality reports lead to improved outcomes for families, including healthier adjustment for children of separated families. They take extra time to get to know the children of separating families and take into account the individual needs and desires of each family. Gold Standard Family Report writers:

- ◆ Maintain an unbiased perspective throughout the process. This means not working with families of clients who have sought assistance from the Report Writer in another capacity (e.g. psychological therapy).
- ◆ Work within the limits of their competencies, in accordance with their Codes of Ethics, and include among their competencies knowledge of domestic and family violence, child abuse dynamics, and children’s developmental stages, engaging with children in an age-appropriate manner.
- ◆ Are members of professional bodies with a Code of Ethics and a complaints mechanism.
- ◆ Provide a CV to solicitors upon request.
- ◆ Stay up to date with relevant research regarding family separation and children’s development.
- ◆ Obtain appropriate cultural understanding if required (such as seeking assistance from an appropriate cultural consultant regarding cultural norms and values when the family is from another culture).
- ◆ Remain independent of other professionals who are working with the families seeking the Family Report.

“Gold Standard” Family Reports

“Gold Standards” for Family Reports were developed by a group of Queensland solicitors, psychologists, and social workers. As a group, we recognised the emphasis given to Family Reports and believed that corresponding and appropriate time needed to be afforded to the report writing process. It was considered that a more comprehensive process better served the individual needs of each family, produced detailed recommendations in the best interests of the child/ren, and therefore promoted healthier adjustment for the children of separated families. Family Reports provide recommendations suitable for forming the basis for Parenting Plans or Parenting Orders and therefore potentially reduce the need for ongoing litigation, saving the financial resources of families. A Family Report may also be required for Family Court processes. The process of preparing a Gold Standard report includes:

- An initial individual consultation with each caregiver of 60-90 minutes duration. These consultations include taking a comprehensive history and relationship history from each caregiver, along with their completing questionnaires which relate to family and individual factors. Children are not required to attend these consultations.
- One to two visits to the child/ren’s places of residence and/or potential places of residence, each lasting 60-90 minutes. Residence visits include spending time with the caregiver and child/ren in their homes, building rapport with the child/ren, and observing the interactions between the child/ren and caregivers. From time to time, other relevant parties may be invited to attend, such as a grandparent or other extended family member.
- In the case that residence visits cannot be completed, the child/ren and caregiver/s may attend the Report Writer’s premises. In this case, the report will take note of this and the reasons why this occurred.
- Completion of a typed Psychologist Report, which concludes with recommendations applicable for use in Parenting Plans, Parenting Orders, or in Court.

FIXED FEE ARRANGEMENT: \$3,950 INC GST*

50% DEPOSIT

50% PAYMENT PRIOR TO RELEASE OF REPORT

- * Full disclosure is to be provided and agreed upon for any additional fees relating to services not included above (e.g. additional visits, attendance at Court if required).