



Survey of Parents and Carers with Family Law Parenting Orders

Information sheet for parents/carers

About our research

We are the Australian Institute of Family Studies. We have been commissioned by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) to research parenting orders dealing with post-separation living and parenting arrangements.

Our research will investigate how parenting orders from the family law courts work in practice. It will look at whether parents comply with parenting orders, how the enforcement regime in the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) operates, and how well it works.

The research will involve multiple studies, including a study drawing on a survey of parents who have parenting orders. This will enable greater understanding of the enforcement regime and the factors that do and do not support compliance with parenting orders.

About the survey of parents

The purpose of the survey of parents is to understand compliance with family law parenting orders from the perspective of parents and, in particular, the things that help and hinder compliance with parenting orders.

We need as many responses as possible to ensure that the survey findings are representative and reliable.

How to participate

All parents who have family law parenting orders made on 1 June 2016 or later (whether they are made by consent or by a judge) are invited to participate in this survey. The orders may have been made by the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia or the Family Court of Western Australia.

If you would like to participate, please [open the online survey](#). **The survey will close on 31 August 2021.**

As the survey is open for two months, you may wish to participate after COVID lockdown restrictions have been lifted to ensure your privacy.

Your privacy and safety

We take your privacy and personal security very seriously, and safeguards are in place to protect it.

Participation in this research is confidential and completely voluntary. Your decision to participate is confidential and will not affect your entitlement to services in any way. You are free to stop the survey at any time, to not answer any questions, and to delete your answers prior to submitting your responses. Data collected in this research will be held securely in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth), and the information that you provide will not be used in any way that may identify you. You may access our privacy policy at aifs.gov.au/aifs-privacy-policy. The measures that will be put in place in line with this policy will include the storage and maintenance of data on the AIFS password-protected computer server, with restricted staff access and password protection of all data files.



The survey questions will not collect any information identifying you. At the start of the survey, you will be directed to a page that will ask you to provide the court file case number (which is noted on your parenting orders) for verification purposes only. Please have your case number with you when you start the survey. No information other than the validity of the case number will be sought from the courts.

Once this is verified, this court file case number will be destroyed. Until the court file case numbers are verified and then destroyed, they will be stored securely on an AIFS password-protected server separate from the survey responses.

This information is important to ensure the integrity of the research because it will enable the research team to verify that the parents participating in the survey have parenting orders. Only relevant AIFS project staff will have access to the file containing these data on the AIFS server.

There is a small chance that if there are ongoing legal proceedings, a subpoena could be issued during the period before your court file case number is verified. However, as noted above, our record of your court file case number will be destroyed as soon as your court file case number has been verified, within five days of your completion of the survey. These measures have been put in place so that your survey data will be non-identifiable and cannot be reidentified or provided on subpoena.

The confidentialised datasets and de-identified data will be retained and managed indefinitely at AIFS, in accordance with AIFS policy and record management obligations. The data may then be used for future research to contribute to policy development.

We also confirm that your participation in the survey will be kept confidential and the research team will not tell anyone that you have been surveyed.

Contacts

The research is conducted by the Institute's family law research team. If you would like to speak to a member of the team, please call 1800 720 142 or email us at parentingorders@aifs.gov.au. If you have a concern relating to the project ethics, please contact the AIFS Ethics Committee Secretariat via ethics-secretariat@aifs.gov.au or 03 9214 7888.

Publication

The final research report and any accompanying publications will be available on the ANROWS and AIFS websites.

About the Australian Institute of Family Studies

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is based in Melbourne. It is an independent statutory agency, established by the Commonwealth Government in 1980. The Institute aims to help in the development of better policies for the future of Australian families. More detailed information about the Institute can be obtained from our website: aifs.gov.au.



Getting help

We are unable to provide advice or to assist with specific concerns about individual matters.

The **Family Relationship Advice Line** provides information about family relationship issues and parenting arrangements after separation. Phone: 1800 050 321, website: familyrelationships.gov.au

Please contact the **National Sexual Assault Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service** for 24/7 information or support about domestic and family violence. Phone: 1800 737 732 (1800 Respect), website: 1800respect.org.au

Call **000** if you are worried about your safety, or the safety of another person.