



GIVING EVIDENCE IN FAMILY LAW CASES

If you have to give evidence in the witness box:

- You will have to either swear on the Bible or affirm that what you say is the truth
- You must tell the truth. Do not embellish it or make it up
- Answer the question. As a witness this is your role.
The only time you stop answering is when you hear, "I object" or "Objection, your Honour".
If you do not understand the question, don't be embarrassed, politely say that you do not understand, or ask that the question be repeated
- Tell us well in advance if you think you will need an interpreter
- If you think you will be intimidated by the Court room process, go to that Court a week prior to your case and observe what happens. It is very important to observe a witness giving evidence.

If you are intimidated by the process, remember when you give evidence:

- The Judge's role is to judge, but he or she is just doing his or her job.
- The lawyer's role is to ask you questions. The other party's lawyer is not out to get you, they are just doing their job.

If you feel you cannot look at the other lawyer when he or she asks you questions:

- Either look at his or her forehead or ear or at a point on the wall.

Don't look:

- At your former partner (it may seem you are attempting intimidation)
- At us or a friend/relative in Court (it may seem you are saying, "Help me, I don't know the answer to that one!")
- At the Judge constantly (even they get intimidated)
- Around the room (you may seem evasive)

Concerned for your safety?

Let us know as early as possible. Usually appropriate security arrangements can be made.

What not to do whilst in Court

Don't treat your case, that of your ex-partner's or the Court as a joke.
Similarly do not use theatrical expressions when you or others give evidence -
e.g. selective deafness, strategic gasping or attempting to intimidate others.
If you try any of these, you may not be believed.

Dress

Where possible, dress conservatively in your best clothes.
Women should not wear too much jewellery.
Tattoos should not be on display.



BENNETT CARROLL

Established in April, 1974, Bennett Carroll is well known as one of the largest law firms outside of the Brisbane CBD. Our well-balanced practice has over 30 years' experience in many areas of specialty including Commercial Law, Conveyancing, Family Law, Estates, Planning and Environment Law, Litigation and Personal Injury. We dedicate ourselves to quality work in these diverse areas and make a point of being accessible to our clients.

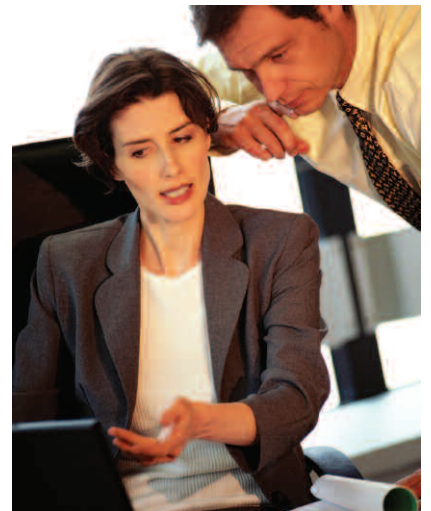
As the preferred solicitors for several National and International companies, we represent well known financiers and developers and hold a reputation for reliability that we intend to keep. Bennett Carroll prides itself on being prompt, accessible, and dealing with you in a language that you can understand; demystifying the law.

Bennett Carroll is in the process of expansion with continued focus on hands-on, up-front problem-solving.

We have offices at Upper Mt Gravatt, Stafford and Kawana.

We pride ourselves in being the market leaders in state-of-the-art technology combined with old-fashioned client service.

The solicitors in our family law section are Warren Tegg, Kate Murphy and Joanne Bennett



Warren Tegg

Warren was admitted to practice as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia in 1979. He ran his own legal practice specialising in Family Law and Business Advice from 1980 until 2001 before merging with Bennett Carroll. Warren has been helping people with their Family Law problems since the inception of the Family Law Act in 1976.

Warren is Department Head with the Family Law division of Bennett Carroll. He brings to the department a wealth of experience that includes some five years running his own call centre for people with Family Law problems, as well as acting as a sessional mediator with Relationships Australia Queensland from 1989 to 1994. He is also the General Manager of the Master Guidance Company, which is a counselling service owned by Bennett Carroll.

Warren has served on a number of Queensland Law Society committees during his career and is currently a member the Small Practice Management division where he has been called upon to speak at State conferences on legal practice.



Kate Murphy

Originally from Northern NSW, Kate studied at Queensland University of Technology graduating in 2005 with a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Business. She has a strong interest in Family Law, which extends to international law relating to marriage and children.

Kate was admitted to the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2006 and the High Court of Australia in 2007. Kate has over 4 years extensive experience in Family Law, as well as engaging in Criminal and Commercial Law. Kate has also had the benefit of being trained with Pauline Tesler, with a strong focus on negotiation.

Kate is a member of the Queensland young lawyers association.

Joanne Bennett

Joanne graduated from Deakin University before completing her Professional Legal Training at Bond University in 2003 and was admitted in December that year.

Joanne is an experienced family lawyer and can offer professional assistance and guidance in all types of family law matters including those involving children and financial issues, de facto relationships, pre-nuptials and parental orders.

Joanne also has extensive Commercial Law experience in vital areas such as property, company structures, franchise agreements, joint venture agreements and leases.

Family law is a very complex and emotional area of law; it will involve your whole family. This is why when things go wrong, you need an experienced team of friendly lawyers who are compassionate professionals with real life experience who understand your problems.



We can assist you with

- Commercial Law
- Business Advice
- Planning and Environment
- Conveyancing
- Litigation
- Family Law Matters
- Injury and Accident Claims
- Criminal Law
- Wills and Powers of Attorney
- Estate Planning

**Offices at Upper Mt Gravatt, Stafford and Kawana
Call us now for advice on 1300 334 566**