



SAFETY PLANNING

Your safety comes FIRST!

On the first interview we will always ask you if it is safe to forward mail to your home and telephone you at home.

If you have not separated, we will ask for you when we call and speak only to you about the case. We will not leave messages with other family members or on an answering machine or voicemail until you have told us that this is safe. If you have not separated, we will always ask you first if it is safe to talk when we call and whether we should call the police.

We will, if possible, seek to block identification of our number when calling you, so that if the perpetrator is at your home they cannot use caller identification to discover that you have lawyers acting for you.

Your whereabouts remain confidential

We will not disclose your addresses, telephone numbers or information about the children without your permission, including during disclosure. Perpetrators sometimes track down their former partners through third parties such as court personnel or community agencies. We will send mail to you at home only when you have advised that this is safe.

We will inform you of legal developments in advance, particularly when the perpetrator is about to be served with documents or when a hearing is approaching, so that you may take extra safety precautions.

If you fail to respond to our calls we will make extensive (but confidential) efforts to confirm that you are safe. If you have decided to drop the case, we will try to find out that you have not been threatened or coerced.

We will refer you to appropriate help about domestic violence.

Safety at home

You should take the following preventative measures:

- *Make the home as safe as possible* by changing the locks, adding deadbolts, and obtaining a unit that is not on the ground floor. Remove sharp objects and weapons from sight. Keep a telephone in a room that locks from the inside. If possible, purchase a mobile phone and keep it in a pocket or in an accessible hiding place, pre-programme 000, your local 24 hour police station or the number of a friend or relative into the phone's directory.
- *Plan and practice an escape route* out of the home and a safety plan for the children. Teach the children not to let the perpetrator into the home (unless the perpetrator has a legal right to be there - check with us as to whether the perpetrator has a legal right to be there). Prepare the children to respond to a perpetrator who comes to their school or day care centre. If a protection order or family law order includes provisions about the children, give a copy to the children's school or child care centre.
- *Keep a bag packed* and hidden in a safe place at home (or locked in a car boot with only one key) or with a safe relative or friend, in case of flight. It should include money for phone calls, transport and one month's expenses, clothing, nappies, court documents, passports, identification (Centre link, driver's licence, family photographs), birth certificates, school and medical records, necessary medicines, credit cards, cheque books, mortgage documents, insurance papers, bankbooks, telephone/address books, car/house keys and ownership documents for the car/house.



- *Make extra copies of protection orders* and keep them in safe places. Show the orders to police officers to improve their response.
- *Show neighbours a photo* of the perpetrator and/or the perpetrator's vehicle so they can screen visitors and call the police if necessary. Perpetrators often gain access to units and townhouses by pretending to be someone else or by following tenants indoors.
- *Develop signals for neighbours* and friends to call the police, such as banging on the floor or wall. If possible, arrange to have a relative or friend call every day at an appointed time.
- *Enrol in a good self-defence course* and regularly practice these skills.
- *Trade cars* with a friend or relative. Perpetrators often locate former victims by identifying their vehicles.
- *Be aware* that motor vehicle records, including addresses, may be available to the public. Qld Transport may keep information confidential upon request if you have a protection order.
- *Obtain a private or unlisted telephone number*, and be selective about revealing a new address. Perpetrators have located survivors through friends, relatives, co-workers, court or Centre link documents, the post office and private investigators.
- *Use the block code* when making telephone calls. Use an answering machine or call trace when receiving calls to collect evidence of harassment or protection order violations.
- *Alter routines* – change transportation routes or timing (including picking up children from school) so that the perpetrator cannot locate you.



What if the perpetrator becomes violent or threatening?

- *Call police on 000* or your local 24 hour police station and ask for the dispatchers' name. When the police respond, obtain the officer's name and badge number (we can use this information to pursue negative or positive police responses, locate police reports and subpoena witnesses).
- *Make a formal complaint to police* if the perpetrator commits an offence or violates a protection order. Making this complaint and following through may be one of the most effective ways to deter future violence.
- *Seek medical treatment* if injured by the perpetrator. Photograph all injuries.
- *Record all contact* with the perpetrator in a diary including safety at work. Give a picture of the perpetrator and the perpetrator's vehicle to security guards and colleagues at work. If the perpetrator shows up, security or other workplace personnel can order the perpetrator to leave or call police.
- *Keep a copy of your protection order at work.* Notify your supervisor of the existence of the order and give them a copy.
- *Screen calls* with voicemail or answering machine if possible or ask a colleague to screen calls or listen in on the line. If a message is recorded on voicemail or answering machine, retain it as it may be able to be used in evidence.
- *Travel with another person.* Survivors frequently are harassed on the way to or from work by perpetrators who are jealous of co-workers or want victims to lose their jobs and become economically dependant.
- *Be careful about where you shop* and where you open any bank accounts or operate those accounts.
- *If you are GLBTIQ,* most police stations have a GLBT liaison police officer. You can ask to speak to them.



Safety in court



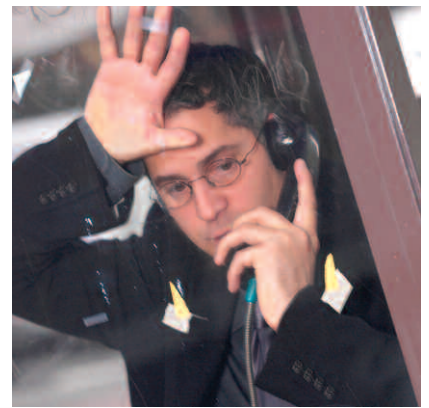
- *Come with a friend* or member of family. When there is a witness to potential abuse there is less chance of it occurring. They can also offer you emotional support.
- If it is the Family Court or some other court, *special security arrangements can be made* which we will do on your behalf. Some courts do not have special security.
- *Going to court mediation.* Let court mediation know so those are seen separately.
- We will always ensure that you are kept in a *separate area from the perpetrator* if at all possible. We will attempt to sit at a physical distance from the perpetrator when we talk to you or wait for the case to be called. We will always attempt to position ourselves between the perpetrator and you.



- We will not permit the perpetrator to speak to you without your consent. It would be our intention to discuss any settlement negotiations with the perpetrator (or the perpetrator's lawyer if represented) and then report back to you.
- Take the same precautions with the perpetrator's family members. You should ensure that your children are safeguarded. If at all possible, ensure that other arrangements are made for childcare and that the children are not brought to court.
- *Take safety precautions when exiting the courthouse.* Perpetrators sometimes stalk survivors to discover where they live or to punish them for taking legal action.

Other safety concerns

- You may have an increased risk of being severely assaulted or killed by the perpetrator if the perpetrator possesses weapons, abuses drugs or alcohol, stalks you or has threatened homicide or suicide.
- We may advise you to stay at a refuge or with friends or relatives if you fear that the perpetrator will assault or kill you. If you have children, we will make certain that we have examined existing court orders and arrangements for the children to determine how flight may affect any court case involving the children.
- Under certain circumstances it may be necessary for you to disappear completely. If we believe this is necessary, we may assist.
- *We have to be aware of our safety.* Most perpetrators seek to control their former or current partners, rather than their lawyers and many perpetrators appear to be well behaved at court. Nevertheless some lawyers representing survivors of domestic violence (including ourselves) have been threatened by perpetrators or their family members. We will take necessary precautions if a problem arises. *If you know of any threats against us, please let us know!*



Internet safety issues

- E-mail – use a password for email so that the perpetrator cannot view your incoming and outgoing emails. If the perpetrator sends you threatening or harassing emails, you should both print and save them as evidence of the abuse. Sending the emails may well be an offence and/or a breach of a protection order.
- History/cache file. An abuser may be able to see what you have viewed recently on the internet if he or she can read your computer's history or cache file (automatically saved web pages). Although you can clear your history or empty your cache file through using the popular browsers such as Netscape and Internet Explorer, this may not completely hide your tracks. A knowledgeable perpetrator may still be able to inspect the cache file. The safest way to find information on the web would be at a local library (free at BCC libraries), a friend's home or at work.

“Ultimately, the solution lies in shaping a society which chooses to be non-violent, just and free of oppression”



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.

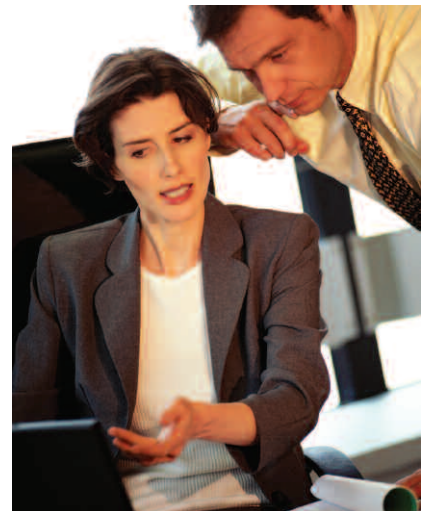
As the preferred solicitors for several National and International companies, we represent well known financiers and developers and hold a reputation for reliability that we intend to keep. Bennett Carroll prides itself on being prompt, accessible, and dealing with you in a language that you can understand;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