

## New certificate type for FDRPs

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From 1 March, FDRPs can issue a new certificate to cover the situation where a Practitioner decides during the course of the resolution process that it would be inappropriate to continue.

To apply to the court for a parenting order, or make changes to an existing parenting order through the courts, a family dispute resolution certificate should be filed with the court application. Exceptions to this include where there is family violence, child abuse or the matter is urgent.

family dispute resolution practitioner when a further application is made in proceedings in which such a certificate has already been filed.

On 1 March 2009 family dispute resolution practitioners will be able to issue a certificate to cover the situation where it becomes apparent during the course of the family dispute resolution that it would be inappropriate to continue.

For example, where a history of violence which impacts on a person's ability to negotiate is not picked up during the intake process but becomes apparent during family dispute resolution, the family dispute resolution practitioner may decide to stop the process.

As the issue was not identified before the family dispute resolution started, there was previously no certificate to cover this situation. The new certificate will now cover this type of scenario.

The certificate form set out in Schedule 1 of the *Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner) Regulations 2008* will be amended accordingly.

An additional amendment will also take effect on 1 March 2009 which removes the requirement to file a certificate from a