



FAMILY COURT OF THE FIJI ISLANDS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION --PLEASE READ THIS

If you are thinking about bringing an action in the Family Court, it is a requirement of the Family Law Act that you be provided with the necessary information so that you can make the best possible decisions to resolve issues that will arise after your separation [s.12 & s.55]

THE FAMILY COURT

- Is committed to providing a service free from discrimination by race, religion or gender.
- Does not treat men and women differently.
- Considers the best interests of the child as the most important principle in cases involving children.
- Makes orders that must be obeyed by both parties.
- Recognises that every family is different and will work with you to provide the best possible outcome for you and your family.
- Will provide an interpreter in your language for your Court sessions.
- Is located across the Fiji Islands but there are specialty courts in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa. The addresses are listed below.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

If you would like to know more about the Family Court please contact the Court Registry nearest to you to make an appointment to attend one of their information sessions. These sessions are conducted regularly.

LEGAL ADVICE

Court staff can assist you with filling in your Family Court Forms but cannot give you legal advice. They are not qualified or permitted to do so.

COUNSELLING & GUIDANCE

Counsellors in the Family Court are trained to provide help if you need someone to talk to regarding problems about your separation. What you talk about with the counsellor is private unless you go to the Court and the counselor is required to give evidence to the Court. Other counselling organizations in the community may be able to assist for premarriage and marriage counseling. Please contact the Registry Staff at your closest Court for a list of the people in your area who can help you with your problems. The Court locations are listed below

SEPARATION

Separating from your partner is a stressful time for all members of the family. Lots of practical decisions will have to be made about your children, about your future and about your property. It is very important when you make these decisions that you have the best available information. Seek legal advice - see the list below.

DIVORCE

- Divorce is the legal ending of your marriage.
- It means that marriage has broken down and one of the parties does not want the relationship to continue.
- The law requires that the relationship has broken down beyond recovery and the Court accepts that you have been living apart for the last 12 months. It is important that you know the date of separation. You cannot apply for a divorce until you have been separated for at least 12 months.
- The fact of getting a divorce does not sort out other issues about children, maintenance, or property. Separate applications to the Court are necessary if you cannot sort out these problems with your former partner.
- You should try with your former partner to agree about children, maintenance and property.
- Many people solve their problems about their children or their property without needing to go to court.
- Help is available – see the agencies listed below.

PARENTING RESPONSIBILITIES

- Parents have a responsibility to maintain and care for their children up to the age of 18 years.
- Parents share duties and responsibilities for the care, welfare and development of their children
- Parents should agree about the future care of their children.

- Parents have a responsibility to make sure that children maintain contact with the other parent or with other people who are important to them for their care, welfare and development.
- Parents have a duty to provide adequate maintenance for their children.

DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

If you are worried about coming to the Court because your partner may be violent towards you, please tell the court staff immediately. Your safety is very important and arrangements can be made to assist you.

HELP LINES

Family Court Locations:

Central/Eastern Division

Suva - Government Buildings, Telephone: 3211341, GPO Box 2215 Government Buildings, Suva.

Navua - Navua Court : The court operates on ad hoc basis. Contact Suva Family Court.

Nasinu - Nasinu Magistrate's Court, Telephone: 3390466, PO Box 7748, Nasinu.

Nausori - Nausori Magistrate's Court, Telephone: 3400006, PO Box 227, Nausori.

Vunidawa - Vunidawa Court – Ad hoc basis only, contact Nausori Magistrate's Court.

Korovou - Tailevu Court House, Telephone: 3430060, PO Box 102, Tailevu.

Levuka - Levuka Magistrate's Court, Telephone: 3440355, PO Box 66, Levuka.

Western Division

Lautoka - Lautoka Magistrate's Court - Telephone: 6660016, PO Box 103, Lautoka.

Lautoka High Court - Telephone: 6660877, PO Box 388, Lautoka.

Sigatoka - Sigatoka Magistrate's Court, Telephone: 6500067, PO Box 87, Sigatoka.

Nadi - Nadi Magistrate's Court, Telephone: 6701322, PO Box 1275, Nadi.

Ba - Ba Magistrates Court, Telephone: 6674096, PO Box 430, Ba.

Tavua - Tavua Magistrate's Court – Telephone: 6680023, PO Box 516, Tavua.

Rakiraki - Rakiraki Magistrate's Court, Rakiraki, Telephone: 694348.

Northern Division

Labasa - Labasa Magistrate's Court, Telephone: 8811772, PO Box 56, Labasa.

Nabouwalu - Nabouwalu Magistrate's Court - contact Nabouwalu Police Station: 8836022.

Savusavu - Savusavu Court, Telephone: 8850272, PO Box 160, Savusavu.

Taveuni - Taveuni Magistrate's Court, Telephone: 8880081, PO Box 31, Taveuni.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE

Ask the Court Registry in your area for information about the services listed below:

1. Family Court Counselling Service,
Suva Tel: 3211811, Lautoka Tel: 6660016, Labasa Tel: 8811772
2. Legal Aid Office
Suva - Telephone: 3311195, PMB, Suva.
Lautoka - Telephone: 6650011, PMB,
Lautoka
Labasa - Telephone: 8815118; PO Box
1241, Labasa
3. Department of Social Welfare, (Suva) Telephone 3315585
4. Fiji Law Society Secretary, (Suva) Telephone: 3315690

Please ask Court staff for other organisations in your area which may be able to assist you.

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