



Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission

LAWYER-ASSISTED FAMILY LAW PROPERTY MEDIATION TRIAL

The NT Legal Aid Commission will offer property conferences under a two year trial of lawyer-assisted mediation for family law property matters. This is part of a national trial occurring in each jurisdiction. The trial will be managed by the Family Dispute Resolution Practice of the NT Legal Aid Commission.

Who Is Eligible?

Clients who are eligible for a grant of legal aid, after meeting a relaxed means and merits test, may receive a grant for property conference, and ongoing assistance under the trial.

The property pool must not exceed \$500,000, excluding superannuation. Negative equity and debt only matters are included.

How Will It Work?

Under the trial, lawyers will provide legally aided clients with legal advice and representation in the conference process. An initial conference to finalise disclosure will be held. A second conference is then held to agree to the division of the property pool. If an agreement is reached at mediation, the lawyer will assist clients to document their agreement and file it with the Court. If there is no agreement reached after conference, lawyers may continue to provide advice to clients about their options, and where appropriate represent them through any subsequent court proceedings (eligibility for legal aid funding will apply).

When Will It Run?

The trial will run from January 2020 to December 2021.

Training And Development

Training in property and in particular debt relating to property matters will be provided to practitioners and Chairs of the program.

Further Information?

If you have questions about the trial, please contact Claire Wyatt, FDR Supervising Solicitor, NT Legal Aid Commission at fdr@legalaid.nt.gov.au or 1800 019 343.