

LIFELINE MAROOCHYDORE

Multi-Disciplinary Family Intervention (MDFI) Pilot Project

THIS IS A FUNDED PROJECT. VOLUNTEERS WILL HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE PARENTING PLAN PROVIDED AT NO COST TO THEM!!

What is Multi-Disciplinary Family Intervention?

MDFI pilot is a post-mediation diversion project that provides couples with an alternative to going to Court. It is for disputing couples who have tried mediation and failed to get agreement and who are now willing to follow a Parenting Plan designed for them by a multi-disciplinary group of professionals.

What Does Multi-Disciplinary Family Intervention Involve?

- 1) Parents meet individually with the researchers and then with a 3-person multi-disciplinary team (MDT). The team will include a psychologist and two other individuals with training and experience in working with families in conflict.
- 2) A comprehensive family report is done by a psychologist, and then reviewed with the other members of the team. This family report includes at least one home visit to any homes in which the child(ren) live.
- 3) The family report is presented (without identifying the parties) at a larger group of multi-disciplinary professionals for their input, and additional enquiries by the family report writer may be made as a result.
- 4) The MDT develops a parenting plan and reviews it with an independent lawyer to ensure that it is not in violation of any legal requirement.
- 5) The MDT meets again with each parent to present and explain the parenting plan.
- 6) Each parent meets for the final time with the researchers to assess the outcomes of the pilot.

What are the benefits of MDFI?

- MDFI recognises the emotional trauma of going through court proceedings, and therefore provides a process where the parties are treated with respect and kindness and provided personal support. Parents participate actively in the process with a focus on their mutual aim of restoring stability, health and dignity to everyone involved;
- The Parenting Plan is designed by a team using a collaborative framework rather than by one individual;
- Parents are able to present all information they consider pertinent whether or not a court would consider it "legally relevant";
- The process aims to provide parents with a sustained motivation for positive change by bringing to the fore the emotional and developmental needs of their child(ren) and an enhanced awareness of the toll that parental conflict may have on their children;
- The process will be concluded within one-two months, instead of the 12-18 months' wait that is usual for a court date; and
- Through the use of this multi-disciplinary model, parents will have access to expert information and advice in relation to how to deal with grief, loss and trauma and how to respond to the needs of children during and post separation.

To enquire as to how to be involved please contact Bob Jacobs on 0408 075 805 or DrBobQA@aol.com