



Don Macpherson | Partner, Family Disputes

Dispute Resolution and Litigation Team
Brisbane

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Don Macpherson is an Accredited Family Law Specialist and heads the MacDonnells Law Family Disputes team in Brisbane. Don's practice has particular emphasis on complex property settlement, children's matters and disputes about estates. His commercial experience and qualifications give him particular insight in relation to business and commercial issues that often arise in complex family disputes between couples and families.

Areas of Practice

- Property settlement and financial issues between separated couples
- Parenting issues such as equal shared parenting and parental responsibility (also known as child custody, residence or contact issues)
- De facto relationship property settlements
- Challenges to wills by beneficiaries treated unfairly
- Acting for executors seeking to defend the terms of a will
- Divorce

Experience

Don Macpherson is widely known as one of the leading Family Lawyers in Brisbane and Queensland and was a member of the Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee from 2000 to 2005. The Committee liaises with the State and Federal Government, as well as the Judiciary, in relation to new legislation and court procedures relating to the practice of family law.

Don was accredited as a Specialist in the practice of family law in 1996 when the opportunity to be recognised as a Family Law Specialist was first offered by the Queensland Law Society.

Having practised in family law for over 25 years, Don has been involved in an extensive variety of legal matters involving family and relationship law including:

- Property settlement disputes involving asset pools varying in range from \$100,000 to \$80 million;
- Contesting spousal maintenance applications acting for both the applicant seeking spousal maintenance and the respondent seeking to reduce or avoid a spousal maintenance payment;



- Injunctions restraining dealing with real estate, businesses or business assets;
- Valuation disputes involving expert evidence from accountants or real estate valuers in relation to business or real estate assets;
- Trials in relation to which parent a child or children should live with, and the extent to which the other party should have contact with that child;
- Applications by grandparents for orders that children reside with them in lieu of either of their parents;
- Applications involving disputed issues with respect to the paternity of children;
- Urgent applications in relation to the issuing of passports for children wishing to travel overseas;
- Applications under the Hague Convention with respect to children removed from their country of domicile to another country;
- Review by the Family Court of child support determinations made by the Child Support Agency;
- Urgent interim residence and contact orders in relation to children;
- Urgent recovery orders in relation to children seized by one of their parents from the other;
- Complex child related matters involving issues of abuse;
- Appearing in hearings in the State Magistrate Courts in relation to domestic violence matters acting for both the complainant and the accused;
- Applications to the Family Court dealing with specific issues in relation to the welfare of children including schooling and medical treatment;
- Applications to the Supreme Court of Queensland in relation to de facto property settlement disputes;
- Appearing in the Federal Magistrates Court in relation to property, maintenance and children's disputes;
- Appeals to the Full Court of the Family Court from decisions made by the Federal Magistrates Court;
- Acting for executors of estates in the Supreme and District Courts defending claims by beneficiaries or others dissatisfied with provision made for them in wills;
- Acting for beneficiaries of wills, or other persons omitted from wills, seeking to have a more just allocation made to them from the estate.

Don's experience in dealing with family law matters has given him considerable expertise in relation to the challenging issues that arise in relation to difficult children's disputes in which he is regularly assisted by psychiatrists, psychologists, and other child welfare specialists, when the need arises.

Don has published a number of articles on family law issues and has been a speaker at Queensland Law Society Continuing Legal Education Seminars relating to family law.



Publications

- "Bankers Beware! The Family Court Can Rewrite Your Contracts", *Proctor*, March 2005
- "Financial Agreements Under the Family Law Act", *Proctor*, March 2001
- "Relocation", *Proctor*, April 2000
- "Spousal Maintenance – An Ongoing Problem", *Proctor*, Sept 1999
- "Spousal Maintenance – A Never Ending Obligation?", *Proctor*, July 1999

Qualifications

- Accredited Family Law Specialist, 1996
- Admitted as a Solicitor of the High Court of Australia, 1985
- Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland, 1983
- Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, 1999
- Bachelor of Laws with Honours from University of Qld, 1981
- Bachelor of Commerce from University of Queensland, 1979
- Queensland Family Law Practitioners Association, Member
- Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, Member