



# SARAH CLEELAND FAMILY LAWYERS

## Parenting Coordination Services



[scfamilylawyers.com.au](http://scfamilylawyers.com.au)



# Our Parenting Coordinators

## Sarah Cleeland

PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

Sarah is a highly experienced and well-respected Senior Family Lawyer, Nationally Accredited Mediator, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, Circle of Security Parenting Facilitator, Parenting Coordinator and Independent Children's Lawyer.

Sarah has over 25 years' experience practising in Family Law and is the Principal of the Family Law Firm, Sarah Cleeland Family Lawyers.

Sarah is also the Founder and Principal of the Mediation practice Sarah Cleeland Mediations. Sarah offers services as a mediator of family law disputes in property settlements, child support disputes and parenting disputes.

Sarah continues to practice as an Independent Children's Lawyer representing the interests



of children both in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia and in the Child Protection system.

Sarah is trained as Circle of Security Parenting Facilitator and Parenting Coordinator. Sarah has now extended her practice to offer services to parents as a Parenting Coordinator.

---

## Qualifications & Accreditations:

- Bachelor of Laws and Commerce (Honours), 1996
- Admission as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of Queensland, 1999
- National Accreditation as a Mediator – Queensland Law Society, 2003
- National Approval as an Independent Children's Lawyer (Legal Aid Queensland), 2003
- Admission as a solicitor to the High Court of Australia, 2005
- Child Protection approval as a Separate Representative (LAQ) 2005
- Completion of Masters Advanced Training Collaborative Lawyer Training, 2007
- Successful completion and qualification as a Principal to operate a Law Firm 2010
- Approval as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (Attorney General Queensland), 2016
- Board Member of the Child Protection Practitioners Association 2019
- Approval as a Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer 2019
- Registration as Parenting Coordinator, 2022
- Approval Circle of Security Parenting Facilitator (Circle of Security International) 2022

# Our Parenting Coordinators

## Shelby MacDonald

SENIOR ASSOCIATE FAMILY LAWYER

Shelby has worked closely with Sarah since 2020, tackling complex and high conflict Family Law matters in her role as Senior Associate. Shelby is experienced in all areas of Family Law including parenting, property, and domestic and family violence matters.

Shelby holds a dual Masters of Family Law and Family Dispute Resolution Practice from the College of Law, in addition to a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland.

Shelby is experienced in matters involving allegations of domestic and family violence,



and undertakes regular pro bono work with the Women's Legal Service, as well as being an accredited Criminal and Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer assisting both aggrieved and respondents.

---

## Qualifications & Accreditations:

- Dual Masters of Family Law and Family Dispute Resolution from the College of Law
- Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland
- Admission as Solicitor to the Supreme Court of Queensland, 2016
- Admission as a Solicitor to the High Court of Australia, 2017
- Criminal and Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer Accreditation, 2018
- Women's Legal Service Queensland volunteer solicitor, 2023
- Approval as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (Attorney General Queensland), 2023
- Registration as Parenting Coordinator, 2023

To handle yourself, use your *head*.  
To handle others, use your *heart*.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

---

## What is Parenting Coordination and how can a Parenting Coordinator help?

---

Parenting Coordination is a child focused process designed to assist parents who have Court Orders, a Parenting Plan or an Agreement, to work together cooperatively to implement the terms of the Court Orders or Agreement in the interests of their children and to avoid conflict post their separation.

The experience of separation can be a difficult and sometimes confusing time for children. It is natural for children to feel at times apprehensive and uncertain about their future and how their parent's separation will impact their lives and their family. Children often require support and understanding through the separation and post separation period in order to make sense of their parent's separation, adapt to the changes in their family and how this will impact on them.

At the same time, parents going through separation may also find themselves struggling with legal

proceedings, disputes about where the children will live and may require support in that process to help them deal with any conflict that may arise in making decisions about their children with their former partner.

For many families, issues can continue to arise even after the Court proceedings have finalised or parents have finalised their Parenting Plan. Court Orders and Agreements can't, and often don't, take into account all of life's unexpected changes, and parents may find themselves struggling with working together to accommodate, implement and adapt to changes within the framework of the Orders or Agreements that they may have.

Parenting Coordination aims to provide separated parents with support, assistance, tools, and education in an empathetic manner in order to assist parents resolve issues that arise post Orders or Agreements between themselves.

---

## Where is Parenting Coordination held?

---

Many of our Parenting Coordination families prefer to attend sessions via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. We do also offer rooms at our offices located at 123 Brighton Road Sandgate, which are comfortable, inviting and conducive to parents having child focused discussions in a relaxed and less formal setting.

Please note that any matters that have been assessed by our Parenting Coordinators as being high risk will be held via Teams or Zoom.

### Contact Us

To enquire about our **Parenting Coordinators** and discuss fees and availability please call or email us and we will get back to you promptly:

reception@scfamilylawyers.com.au | 07 3269 9938

**scfamilylawyers.com.au**