

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia follows a general pathway once court proceedings are started:

1

Before anyone starts the court process they must:

- 1) invite the other person to **mediation** (provided it is safe to do so)
- 2) send the other person a **letter** telling them they intend to start court proceedings and wait for a reply.

**PRE-ACTION
PROCEDURE**

2

The court process is started by **filling out application forms** and giving them to the court ('filing'). You get a date to go to court and the documents must be given to the other person ('service').

**FILING &
SERVICE**

3

The first court date is usually online via Microsoft Teams before a Judicial Registrar. **No decisions are made about your property or children unless you agree**, or a Judge decides the issues are urgent.

**FIRST
COURT DATE**

4

An Interim Hearing is a court event where either a Senior Judicial Registrar or a Judge, makes **decisions about your children or property that will be in place until the Final Hearing**.

**INTERIM
HEARING**

5

A Directions Hearing is a court event usually held online via Microsoft Teams before a Judicial Registrar. You and the other person will give **information to the court about where the case is up to** and whether you are ready to have a final hearing.

**DIRECTIONS
HEARING**

6

A Compliance and Readiness Hearing can be held online, or in person, before a Judge. The Court will make sure your matter is **ready for Final Hearing**. Orders likely to be made are updated evidence (Affidavits & subpoena) and a list of witnesses.

**COMPLIANCE
AND
READINESS
HEARING**

7

The final hearing is when a Judge **hears all of the evidence. Both people and any experts are cross examined**. The Judge makes a **final decision** - they might let you know on the day or afterwards.

**FINAL
HEARING**