

## Why a divorce lawyer considers arrangements for children when completing your divorce application

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The *Family Law Act* provides that a divorce order will not be ordered unless the court is satisfied that, amongst other things, that proper arrangements in all the circumstances have been made in relation to the welfare of any children of the marriage who have not yet obtained the age of 18 years old. Where the Court has concerns as to the arrangements for any children involved, it is able to adjourn the divorce proceedings until the Court is satisfied proper arrangements have been put in force. This concern of the Court may be met by obtaining a report from a family consultant appointed by the Court. It may be the case that where there are children under 18 years involved, the parties will have already commenced parenting proceedings with the Court. If so, the Court may find that is sufficient enough to determine that proper arrangements are in the process of being made or could make an “alternate declaration”. An alternate declaration means that although the Court has found the arrangements for the care of the children are not proper, in all the circumstances of the case there are grounds still to proceed with the divorce. However, this will not always necessarily be the case and as such you should seek advice from a divorce lawyer.

[For more information, visit our page on Separation and Divorce.](#)

For advice in relation to your divorce, contact a divorce lawyer from our team on **1800 300 170** or email us at [familylaw@matthewsfolbigg.com.au](mailto:familylaw@matthewsfolbigg.com.au)

### Disclaimer

***Family law situations can be complex and sometimes they can involve serious issues. Information outlined is proposed to provide general guidance only. Due to the seriousness of legal matters as well as the uniqueness of your individual situation, professional advice should be sought. For advice, please contact one of our Family Lawyers.***