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THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE FAMILY DISPUTES

Separation and divorce are often complicated and always stressful. But they become more complicated and stressful when children are involved.

If you're separating from your partner and you have children, you should always see your solicitor first. That way you will know your rights and obligations up front and you give yourself the best chance of reaching an understanding with your former partner that suits your children as well as you.

What should you do in the short-term?

Before you go through any formal process it's usually in everyone's interests to reach a short-term agreement about the day-to-day practicalities of living apart. This includes deciding things such as where the children will live until you reach a final agreement, who will occupy the family home, how much time the children will spend with each parent, and who will pay child support.

It is usually easier to reach an agreement if both people accept that the relationship has ended. For this reason, many couples also find separation or reconciliation counselling can help at this time.

Meehans can assist in all aspects of Family Law – please call our office and speak with one of our Family Law Solicitors.

WHEN CAN YOU EMPLOYER TERMINATE YOUR EMPLOYMENT?

If you're a permanent employee (or a long term casual employee) your employer can only lawfully terminate your employment for a valid reason, which means one based on:

- your capacity to work or your performance;
- your conduct, including its effect on the safety and welfare of other employees;
- their need to have the work you're doing performed (ie redundancy).

Before it can dismiss you for one of the first two reasons, your employer will usually first need to give you both a warning (preferably written) and a reasonable opportunity to correct your behaviour or lift your performance. It must also let you bring a support person into any meeting to discuss your performance or conduct, as well as giving you the chance to present your side of the argument.

If they don't you may be entitled to bring an unfair dismissal claim. **Meehans** have solicitors that help you understand this process – please call us on **46273333** for any assistance.

SELF – MANAGED SUPER COMPLIANCE

Are you ensuring your Self-Managed Super Fund is compliant?

Owning Retail/Commercial/Industrial property in your self-managed super fund requires an annual market appraisal of your asset to ensure your self-managed fund is compliant if ever audited by the ATO.

Meehans Solicitors has an agreement with LJ Hooker Commercial Macarthur to provide these market appraisals at a reduced rate of \$400.00 including GST for any of their clients.

LJ Hooker Commercial Macarthur have been supplying these market appraisals directly to their clients annually to ensure their Self-Managed Funds are compliant and avoid scrutiny from the ATO.

Please mention you are valued client of **Meehans Solicitors** when you call Aaron Ward from LJ Hooker Commercial Macarthur (02) 4620 6111 to receive this discounted rate.

Alternatively, if you are looking to invest into Retail/Commercial/Industrial property click on the link below to see a sample of properties available from LJH Commercial Macarthur.

<http://www.flipemag.com.au/LJHCMacarthur/PropertyGuide/>

NEGOTIATING A LEASE

When you're setting up or acquiring a business you may also need to lease premises. If you do, it's important to get the lease right so that you don't have to change some part of what you're doing or even move when you're not ready to.

Your lease must set out the conditions for occupying the premises, including the rent and any rent increases. You should make

sure the lease lets you alter the premises to suit your business. If you're leasing space in a shopping centre, it's probably a good idea to make sure it also restricts competing businesses from setting up in the same centre. Be careful of any restrictions imposed on trading hours or access to the premises.

Before you move into your premises you should always make sure your solicitor has examined the lease, so they can make it work in your favour.

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