

FOREWORD

In the past 30 years the practice of family law has changed considerably in a variety of ways but always with increasing complexity. The provisions of the *Family Law Act*, particularly in parenting matters, have been described as labyrinthine and need to be negotiated. Continuing changes to legislation and processes require dynamic management. The latest of these is the legislation conferring jurisdiction on the Family Court and Federal Magistrates Court in de facto matters.

The introduction in 2000 of a second court exercising jurisdiction under the *Family Law Act* encouraged to develop different practices and procedures means that there are even more practices, procedures and documents which the practitioner in family law needs to master.

This book endeavours to provide both substantive law, practice and procedure and examples of how to present cases, in one volume bringing substantive law and practice tips together.

The authors have set themselves a daunting task to keep the book up to date with new law, rules and decisions. If they succeed, their book will be a very useful addition to the family law practitioner's library and particularly provides a practical focus and a quick reference guide for a junior or general practitioner needing guidance with family law matters.

Some of the draft affidavits in particular address procedural matters and provide a very useful and practical checklist for ensuring that relevant matters are covered and that the case is presented to best effect. It is an ambitious project but the end result is a practical book which would be very useful in the library of any family lawyer but particularly one who dips into the jurisdiction from time to time or is new to the practice of family law.



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