

To our valued clients, referrers, colleagues and community

From Wednesday 25 March 2020 the partners and staff of Forte Family Lawyers have been working fully remotely as required by the Victorian Government. As we previously advised you, we have activated our Business Continuity Plan and will continue to provide a high quality service.

Our clients have adapted well to switching all client conferences to be video conferences. We have done many of these before, but mainly for overseas or interstate clients.

We anticipate that as the effects of the pandemic are felt our clients will have different problems than the usual ones. Client enquiries confirm this. Our lawyers have been working through different scenarios so we are ready to advise on these as they arise.

We believe that these times call for more creative solutions to resolving disputes and Forte is well set up to provide these. Our staff can work from home and we have good IT systems which enable us to do this smoothly. Jacky is a trained arbitrator and arbitrations can be done on the papers or electronically. Arbitrations can resolve interim disputes including matters which need to be resolved urgently, as well as resolve matters on a final basis. Although currently parenting matters cannot be resolved through arbitration, there will be more pressure on the Government to change this. The mediators we use are working out how to hold mediations electronically.

We recognise that these are unsettling times, but we will work with you to get through this. You can be confident that the quality of our advice and assistance to our clients will continue

Contacting us

Our landline number, 9248 5800, still works whether we are in the office or working remotely. Our receptionist Sally will take messages and send an email to the person you want to speak to. We will return your calls promptly. All our personal email addresses still work and all our staff have direct mobile numbers.

If you have any queries or concerns please direct them to Jacky and Wendy on 9248 5800 or enquiries@fortefamilylawyers.com.au.

We wish you all the best in these difficult times and hope you all stay safe.