



## What's important

“I just want all of this to stop - to make it go away.”

1. To achieve that Elizabeth needs Parenting Orders in place which provide for a stable, reliable structure and routine for the children.
2. But the ex is making this difficult: changing goalposts, breaching DVO, inserting himself, gaslighting, belittling.

## How to get there

Elizabeth considered free community services, but wishes to engage Miltons:



*I want to be listened to*

*I want someone to have my back*

*I want someone who can follow through*

## Looking Ahead

### Cost estimate: **\$12,500**

Family Law costs are difficult to predict and depend on many factors

### Cost scenarios:

- a. Settlement at mediation
- b. Settlement beyond mediation
- c. High conflict, drawn out scenario

### Absolute max legal spend: **\$30,000**

'Back against the wall' scenario

### Miltons agree to commence acting

While fees are worked out

- o What arrangements can be put in place to ensure Miltons will be able to “follow through?” and go the whole way, unlike previous services?

## Available Options

### Funding fees from income

- a. Capacity to pay **\$1,400** on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- b. Capacity to pay **\$300** per week

### Possible help from family / friends

- a. **Elizabeth:** to have necessary conversations

### Access **\$7,700** in joint account

- a. **Lawyers:** request, demand, Court Application

### Possibly seek payments from KP's income

- a. **Lawyers:** request for Spouse Maintenance or Cost Application

### Reconsolidating / extend Personal Loan

- a. **Onwards:** facilitate introduction to broker to advise and assist
  - i. Borrowing capacity: re-draw up to original **\$50,000**? Is **\$22,000** available?
  - ii. What are loan terms?

## Action Plan

*to be discussed and agreed*

- Instruct Miltons to commence working - prepare for mediation to try to resolve
- Demonstrate creditworthiness: pay \$1,500 on 15 April (next week)
- Arrange Personal Loan facility. Use that until you can access joint account or Spousal.
  - Required loan repayments of **\$350**
- Instruct Lawyers
  - To seek access to the **\$7,700** in joint account at mediation and if refused, follow up with Court Application (Onwards can assist to lower the cost)
  - To advise whether Spousal Maintenance is achievable via negotiation or at Court
- Onwards will arrange further check-ins with you and Miltons at:
  - o Post mediation, if matter not settled - what is the Cost outlook?
  - o Responsible lawyering check-in at **\$20k** invoiced
  - o Responsible lawyering check-in at **\$15k** invoiced - approaching maximum expenditure of **\$30k**