

Phillips | Family Law Bulletin

ETIQUETTE - TIPS WHEN NAVIGATING SOCIAL MEDIA DURING A FAMILY LAW MATTER



Given the ever developing ways in which people involved in family law matters are using social media, the legal landscape is struggling to adapt. However, in recent times, there has been an increasing willingness by Judges in the family law courts to accept social media as a form of evidence in proceedings relating to parenting and financial matters.

Despite the widespread use of social media and it being a very useful tool when used in a responsible and considered way all too often we see people involved in family law matters using social media in way which appears they have given little if any thought to the implications of the information they are posting, responding to or sharing online. Frequently we see parties include negative and damaging messages, emails, text messages and photos found on social media or received from their former partner in affidavits filed in the Court.

In recent years families have changed the way they communicate and interact with each other. For the vast majority of us interaction with friends, family and colleagues via social media has become an almost every day occurrence. Over the past few years there has been a sharp increase in the use of Facebook, Twitter, Skype, Instagram and Snapchat.

To read more please click [here](#)

Fiona Caulley, Senior Associate

Phillips Family Law Welcomes new support staff

Phillips Family Law are pleased to welcome their newest members of staff to the team, Stephanie Barnes our new Administrative Assistant and Brigida Corte-Real who will assist with both Administration and Accounts.

Stephanie is currently studying a Bachelor of Justice/ Bachelor of Laws (Honours) through Queensland University of Technology and has a keen interest in working within the legal industry. She brings an enthusiastic and understanding approach to her new role as our Administration Assistant. Brigida is currently Studying a Bachelor of Law and Commerce through the University of Queensland. She will work closely with our firm's paralegal Georgia Dight in providing vital support to the Phillips Family Law team.

Stephanie and Brigida bring with them a great attitude and lovely manner and we are happy to welcome them both to the PFL team.



Preventative measures against international child abduction

Recent events in the media have put the issue of international child abduction in the context of a family law dispute into the spotlight again. In today's society where travelling overseas is much more accessible, the boost in international marriages has contributed to the increased risk of international child abduction following the breakdown of a parental relationship.

The Attorney General's Department describes international parental child abduction as "when one parent or guardian takes their child from its home country without the permission of the other parent or guardian, or without the authorisation of a court".

Whilst parties often see international parental child abduction as an extreme or unlikely occurrence in their circumstance, child abduction is usually done in secrecy and before the other parent becomes aware of an intention to remove the children from Australia. As time is of the essence in these cases it is important to adopt a cautious approach from the outset. There are preventative measures which can be put in place now to avoid child abduction occurring.

To read more please click [here](#)

Olivia Phillips, Lawyer

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