



How a history of family violence may impact your property settlement

From 10 June 2025, changes were implemented to the *Family Law Act* so that now, the economic impact of family violence must be considered by the Court when making decisions about the division of your relationship property.

Family violence encompasses coercive control as well as economic and financial abuse, for example when one party in a relationship controls all the finances or spending.

The impact of family violence may be seen to be relevant by the Court in assessing a party's contribution during a relationship, for example, if their homemaker or parenting contribution was more arduous because of family violence or if they

were precluded from working. Family violence may also have an impact on how a Court might assess someone's future needs especially if they have ongoing trauma or counselling costs.

The 10 June 2025 amendments also allow parties to a relationship to make an Application to the Court about ownership of a family pet. The Court will need to consider any animal abuse as a form of family violence and the attachment of each party and the children to the pet in question. The Court cannot make orders for shared care of a family pet.

If these changes to the law raise any questions for you, you should speak to a family lawyer about how the changes might impact you.



FREE 10 MINUTE CONSULTATION

For a **FREE** confidential
10 minute phone
consultation, call **Managing**
Director, Fiona Reid.

Fiona Reid is the Managing Director of Reid Family Lawyers, a boutique specialist family law firm with offices in Brookvale and Surry Hills. She is supported by a team of expert family lawyers. The firm has a wealth of experience in all facets of family law including complex property matters, parenting matters, child support and spousal maintenance issues, relocation, de facto and same sex issues, surrogacy and adoption.



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