

IN THE FAMILY COURT  
HELD AT

FP \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**BETWEEN** \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant

**AND** \_\_\_\_\_

Respondent

**UNDERTAKINGS BY PROPOSED LAY ASSISTANT \***

I \_\_\_\_\_ (name)  
of \_\_\_\_\_ (address),  
\_\_\_\_\_ (occupation)

understand and accept the following conditions relating to my proposed role as Lay Assistant for \_\_\_\_\_ (name).

- 1 Acceptance of me as lay assistant and the extent of my involvement in any Court hearing are decisions to be made by the presiding Judge at any Court hearing.
- 2 I have discussed the case with the party seeking my appointment and I am in a position to assist him/her with their case in Court.
- 3 I accept that my role in Court is to:
  - (a) Sit beside the party;
  - (b) Take notes;
  - (c) Quietly make suggestions and give advice;
  - (d) Assist the party with questions and submissions for the party to put to the Court or witnesses.
- 4 I accept that I will not be allowed to address the Court or take any active part in the proceedings myself.

5 I understand that Family Court proceedings are closed to the public and I undertake:

- (a) Not to show or copy any Family Court papers to any third party;
- (b) Not to discuss anything, or disclose details of anything, arising in any Family Court hearing with or to any third person including any representative from the media;
- (c) Not to take written notes in Court for any purpose other than to assist the party;
- (d) To hand to the Registrar, if requested, any notes made by me in Court;
- (e) Not to tape record any proceedings in Court;
- (f) Not to publish, or cause to be published, or assist in publishing, in any way, any communications, reports, papers, press releases, web page notices, or any documents which relate in any way to these proceedings, without first obtaining the leave of the Court.

6 I understand and accept that the above confidentiality obligations apply equally to a support person under s83(2) of the Domestic Violence Act as to a Lay Assistant in Family Court proceedings generally.

7 I acknowledge that any breach of confidentiality of Family Court proceedings may render me liable to criminal prosecution for an offence which carries a penalty of imprisonment.

8 I understand that the presiding Judge may terminate my role as lay assistant for the party at any time.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 200\_\_.

Signed by the said: \_\_\_\_\_

in the presence of: \_\_\_\_\_

(Deputy Registrar)

\* Sometimes known as a “McKenzie Friend”