

# Family Court glossary

Commonly used phrases or terms in the courtroom and their plain language equivalent translations.

Existing language	Plain language
Applicant/respondent	[Use names]
Contact	Visit
Counsel	Lawyers
Directions conference	Another court meeting
I am satisfied that violence has occurred	From what I have heard, I believe violence has happened
In chambers	Office
In my determination	My decision is
Issue a minute	A typed record of what I believe should happen and how it should happen
Long cause fixture	One day or more hearing where the judge listens to both sides of the story and makes an order or decision.
Memorandum	What the lawyer writes down
My learned friend	Lawyers
Paramount	Most important
Pleading	What you said
Proceeding	Case



Registrars list/CMR	Court staff check your case is moving forward
Reserved decision	I will write my decision and give it to you as soon as I can
Retire	Finish for the day
Round table meeting	Both of you and your lawyers talk together
Settlement conference	Meeting with the judge to try and get agreement
Short cause fixture	Half day or less hearing where the judge listens to both sides of the story and makes an order or decision.
Stand down	Take a break to discuss
Supervised/monitored	Someone will be there to make sure everyone is ok
Swear or affirm	Promise
Undertakings	Promises
Without prejudice	Private/no discussion about it later
<b>Commonly used sections</b>	
S5(a)	Safety report
S15 referral	Referral to Oranga Tamariki
S19 referral	Referral to Oranga Tamariki
S46F	Mediation
S46G	Counselling
S132	Social worker's report
S133	Psychological report

