

MEDIA RELEASE
FAMILY LAW APPLICATIONS

With the advent of new technology like smart phones, it seems as if there's an app for everything – even tracking down cheating spouses!

A New York man has told how he caught out his wife after installing the “Find your Friend” app on her new iPhone 4S. This app shows a GPS location for logged in users which enabled him to see exactly where she was although she had posted she was elsewhere.

Social network sites such as Facebook are also impacting on family law matters as more and more people communicate and share information online.

“People do need to be careful of what information they provide via these networks”, warns Clarissa Rayward, Director of Brisbane Family Law Centre at Albion.

“Recent family law cases in Australia show that the information posted on Facebook has been used in Court proceedings and even the Court sees these sites as a possible means of locating someone for the service of Court documents”.

Such cases include a Court ordering that Facebook be used to electronically serve an elusive father with documents in relation to a paternity test for a child support dispute. It



The image is a promotional banner for the Brisbane Family Law Centre. It features a white brick wall on the left with the logo 'BFLC' in orange and 'BRISBANE FAMILY LAW CENTRE' in black. A black silhouette of a family is positioned between 'LAW' and 'CENTRE'. To the right is a red brick wall with the text 'START YOUR NEW LIFE WITH US' in yellow. Below this is the website 'www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au'. On the far right, contact details are listed: '10 Albion Road, Albion Qld 4010', 'Ph: 07 3862 1955', 'Fx: 07 3862 1255', and 'info@bflc.com.au'. At the bottom right, it identifies the 'Director: Clarissa Rayward BA LLB' with 'ABN 17130966317'. A black bar at the bottom contains the text 'a SPECIALIST FAMILY LAW FIRM focusing on collaborative law, mediation and out of Court dispute resolution' in white.

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is also quite common for orders to be made restraining parties from publishing photos of their children on Facebook.

People could also use Facebook to “stalk” their ex partners and put forward arguments that posted photos show inappropriate behaviours that evidence non-compliance with Court orders or spark concerns for children’s safety. Parties should also be aware of disclosure issues in posting comments in relation to current Court proceedings.

“Once information is posted on these sites, it’s out there for a lot of people to see and parties to family law proceedings need to ask themselves whether posting comments on Facebook is worth inflaming a situation and perhaps jeopardizing an amicable resolution to their matter”.

For information and assistance in relation to family law matters, please contact Brisbane Family Law Centre on 3862 1955 or visit their website at www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au.

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