

FAMILY LAW IN NEW ZEALAND

BY MARK HENAGHAN, BILL ATKIN, DALE CLARKSON
& JOHN CALDWELL

15TH EDITION, LEXISNEXIS, WELLINGTON, 2011, 1469 PAGES.

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Family Law in New Zealand appears to be designed to be an “accessible”, portable resource for students (formal and informal) of family law. It provides expert commentary on the core family law topics – dispute resolution, maintenance, child support, day-to-day care, international child abduction, guardianship, wardship of court, paternity, care and protection of children, adoption, relationship property and domestic violence. There are separate very comprehensive, excellently referenced chapters on what are probably the two most difficult areas for the Family Court and the profession, relocation disputes and child sexual abuse. A useful introductory chapter discusses the Family Court and gives an overview of the development of family law since the establishment of the Family Courts in 1980. The book has a table of cases but, unfortunately, not a table of statutes and regulations. The discussion of each topic develops logically to provide the reader with an understanding of the purpose and scope of the law in the area plus knowledge of the case law and academic writing as at 1 October 2011. Mark Henaghan, Bill Atkin and John Caldwell are highly respected domestically as teachers and internationally as researchers and legal commentators. Her Honour Judge Dale Clarkson is a senior Family Court Judge and an internationally respected commentator on family and child law. The authors’ years of experience and considerable knowledge of the practical and theoretical aspects of family law and international research has enabled them to produce a text which combines interesting illustrations of the human elements of family law and a clear outline of the legislation and case law, with critical comment.

The book will be an important text for any student who does not have access to the on-line version of *Family Law Service*. For students who do have such access it could be used as a portable companion to the Service as the same paragraph numbering is used in both resources. *Family Law in New Zealand* would be a very useful resource for the non-lawyer who has an interest in family law and for small or non-specialist legal practices which do not wish to invest in the on-line or loose leaf versions of *Family Law Service*.

All users of the text will need to be aware of the significant changes to the law relating to parenting orders in cases where there have been allegations of violence enacted by the Care of Children Amendment Act 2011 and the changes mooted by the Child Support Amendment Bill 2011.

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