

Fact sheet

List of NSW Independent Assessors and Registered Counsellors for Intrafamily and Special Case Adoption

September 2024

To arrange the preparation of a report that satisfies s.91 of the *Adoption Act 2000*, you should contact an assessor approved to complete adoption work in NSW.

Independent Assessors on the panel have different areas of expertise and geographical coverage. For more information, visit [DCJ Independent Assessors Panel for Carer, Restoration, Guardianship, and Adoption Permanency assessments](#). Any Independent Assessor marked with a tick in the adoption column is approved to complete court reports for Supreme Court adoption matters.

Your assessor can provide details of Registered Counsellors who undertake work for intrafamily and step parent adoption matters. If you are unable to find a Registered Counsellor within a reasonable distance from the applicant or person requiring counselling, please contact Open Adoption and Permanency Services at adoption.permanentcare@dcj.nsw.gov.au.

Please note:

- You will generally need to forward the assessor the required fee before they can arrange an interview. Please refer to the Costs for Court Report and Registered Counselling Factsheet for more information.
- Anyone that is required to consent to a child's adoption must undergo Registered Counselling within the timeframes set down in the adoption legislation. To arrange this, you should contact a Registered Counsellor. You will need to forward the Registered Counsellor the required fee before they can arrange an interview. Please refer to the Costs for Court Report and Registered Counselling Factsheet for more information.
- The Adoption Assessor and Registered Counsellor should not be the same person.
- **These professionals are unable to provide legal advice on intrafamily adoption.** It is the responsibility of the applicants to seek and obtain appropriate legal advice in the preparation of an adoption application.