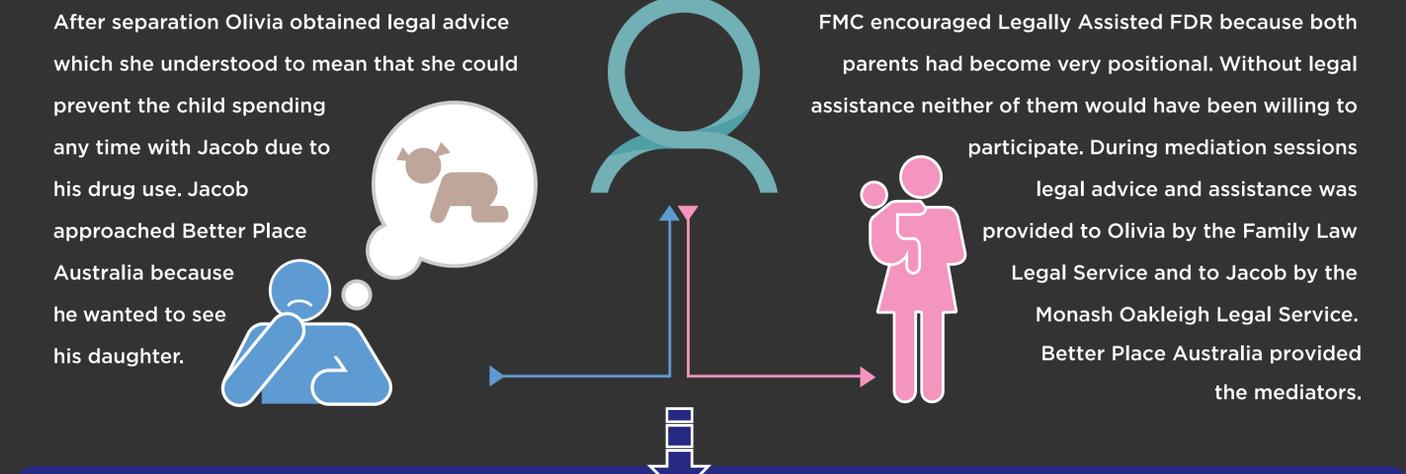
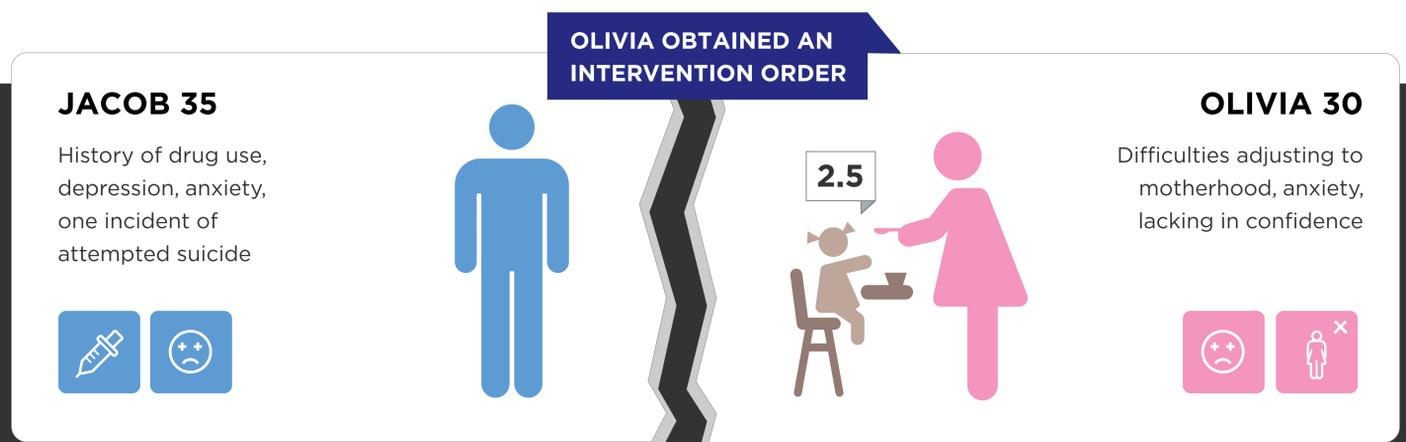


# CASE STUDY

## Legally Assisted Family Dispute Resolution

**Scenario** { Olivia and Jacob had a child very early in their relationship, lived together for 2 years before an incident of physical violence led to separation.



**Legally Assisted FDR was undertaken in a shuttle manner (practitioners moving between clients in separate rooms) with staggered arrival and departure times for Olivia and Jacob.**

### Outcome

<p>First mediation session – interim arrangements for Jacob to have increasing, supervised visits with his daughter agreed plus requirement for Jacob to undertake drug screening prior to visits</p>	<p>Both parents agreed to undertake counselling and enrol in a <i>Parenting After Separation</i> group</p>	<p>In pre-mediation reviews (between mediation sessions) both parents reported all was going very well</p>	<p>Second mediation session (6 weeks later) - Olivia and Jacob progressed from shuttle to a joint session</p>
<p>Parents able to communicate respectfully and focus on what was in the best interests of their daughter</p>	<p>A new parenting plan was negotiated with significantly increased visitation for Jacob including some overnight stays</p>	<p>A 'communication book' was started enabling the parents to more easily share information with each other about their daughter</p>	<p>Parents agreed to consult with each other on choosing childcare and/or preschool care</p>

**“**

**Sandra, Lawyer for Olivia**

*“Unfortunately Olivia had received inaccurate legal advice before attending Better Place Australia. However, by having a lawyer on-hand throughout the sessions, I was able to give her clear advice, encourage her to explore options and to help her re-focus on the best interests of her daughter.”*

**“**

**Jane, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner**

*“Watching these two, who were so deeply entrenched in their point of view, begin to trust the process and open their minds was fantastic. This wouldn't have happened without the assistance of lawyers. Olivia and Jacob knew that because everyone was present there was no opportunity for misunderstanding. Through this process they also witnessed mature adults negotiating respectfully with each other which was important behaviour modelling for them.*

*Even more important, at the end of the second mediation session, Jacob and Olivia were able to share real laughter with each other.”*

\*Names have been changed.

