



**Title:** *Mediating with Families*, 3rd edition  
**Author:** Linda Fisher, Mieke Brandon  
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# Family business

Mediation guide  
a one-of-a-kind resource

by Lynette Galvin



*Mediating with Families*, by Linda Fisher and Mieke Brandon, was first published in 2002. It is a handbook primarily for family mediators, including family dispute resolution (FDR) providers.

It is also useful for other professionals interested in the resolution of family disputes, such as lawyers, counsellors, therapists and academics.

Special features of the book, now available in a third edition, are the outstanding lists of resources at the end of each chapter, and the many case studies and reflective examples throughout illustrating issues that may arise in a mediator's practice.

The book is available from Thomson Reuters or LEADR for \$110 or \$143 with an online ebook version as a package.

The authors say that their purpose in writing the first edition of this book was "to help readers to develop an understanding of the complexities of family relationships, the issues arising from these relationships and the role of a mediator in assisting family members to deal with them". They recognised that there wasn't another book available at the time that addressed these issues.

The second and third editions, with additional appendices and the latest information from a range of FDR organisations, have expanded on these themes.

The book is written in 12 chapters, each dealing with a range of dispute situations that can occur between different family members such as separation, married, de facto and same sex partners, issues for children, the role of grandparents, relocation, wills & estates, parent adolescent, family business partners, older family members and decision making for care as well as the role of lawyers in dispute resolution processes.

Each chapter also addresses a particular aspect of practice, such as suitability assessment, family violence, child-informed practice, dilemmas and process management together with the necessary facilitation techniques and interpersonal skills development for the practitioner.

It is coherent in its layout and quite a riveting read from beginning to end. It also lends itself to 'dipping in' for advice on specific issues from time to time.

The clear layout of each chapter, with its case studies and extensive resource lists, and reference to the relevant law, makes the authors' experience and skills seem accessible to me as a new mediator.

The guidance in the form of the many diagrams in the book make the ideas easily understandable. My volume of *Mediating with Families* is very well thumbed already.

I would recommend this book as an invaluable, one-of-a-kind resource to anyone who seeks to understand the practice and theory of family dispute resolution.

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