

Lunch and Learn Webinar: Popular Post-Separation Parenting Apps: Can they help to reduce conflict?



Date	Thursday 27th March 2025
Time	11.30-1pm (GMT) [10:30pm-midnight (AEST)]
Venue	Online via Zoom
Presenter	Bruce Smyth
Cost	RS Members £15/ Non-Members £30
CPD Points	1.5 Category A Points

Booking **Secure your place [HERE](#)**

Join Relationships Scotland's first **Lunch and Learn** online webinar.

Professor Bruce Smyth will join us from Canberra to discuss the rapidly evolving digital landscape which presents new challenges to family law system professionals (i.e., the judiciary, legal and dispute resolution practitioners, and those in allied professions) and family relationship support services.

Family law system professionals are increasingly being asked about, or to recommend, the use of post-separation parenting apps. These apps are also increasingly being mandated by family courts—sometimes without a sunset clause.

A bewildering array of smartphone apps have emerged to support separated parents' communication and post-separation parenting arrangements. These apps usually comprise a messaging tool, shared calendar, expense tracker, and a means to download messages and documents for courts. It can be difficult for separated parents, and family law professionals, to know which app or app feature(s) might best suit their needs, circumstances, and budget. While apps afford several potential benefits, some app features may do more harm than good by causing frustration, conflict or even facilitating abuse.

This online webinar seeks to increase participants' understanding of the potential benefits and risks of post-separation parenting apps and their features. The session takes place over the lunchtime period and will include a presentation and a Q&A session. A recording of this session will be available to participants for a limited period.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the session participants will be able to:

- Consider if, when, and for whom co-parenting smartphone apps may be useful when managing post-separation communication and co-parenting.
- Compare the benefits and risks of different app features for separated parents.

Presenter: **Bruce M. Smyth** PhD is Professor of Family Studies with the Australian National University (ANU). He has been working as a social scientist in family law for almost 30 years. Prior to joining the ANU in 2007, he worked at the Australian Institute of Family Studies as a Senior Research Fellow. He was a member of the Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support (2003–04) and was awarded an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship (2012–16) to investigate the high conflict post-divorce shared-time family. Professor Smyth is currently a member of the Child Support Expert Panel in Australia, has 100+ publications and presented 300+ presentations in Australia and internationally. In 2018, in Washington DC, he received the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award from the American Association of Family & Conciliation Courts in recognition of outstanding research in the field of family and divorce. He is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Family Transitions* (formerly *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*); *Family Court Review*; *Journal of Family Studies*; *Australian Journal of Family Law*; and *Children Australia*.

HOW TO BOOK

Relationships Scotland Lunch and Learn Webinars are open to practitioners who are currently working for a Service that is a Member of Relationships Scotland and to practitioners from external organisations. We use an online booking process, the link to the online booking form for this event can be found [HERE](#) . The online booking form can be used by:

- Member Services to book on behalf of practitioners.
- Practitioners from Member Services who wish to self-fund.
- Practitioners from external organisations.

If you have any questions about the booking process please contact:

Jo Lockenwitz: jo.lockenwitz@relationships-scotland.org.uk

BOOKING TERMS

Booking for webinars will be confirmed by email within 10 days of submission. Please check your inbox and/or junk mail, if you have any issues receiving this email please contact us immediately. Only participants that have received a booking confirmation email will be able to access the event. Member Services or Self-funded practitioners will be sent an invoice for the course fee before the event, please do not make a payment until you have received this invoice as it will have a unique invoice number for the payment reference. Cancellations and non-attendance will be charged in full.

A recording of the Lunch and Learn Webinar will be available to participants shortly after the event. The recording will be available for two weeks and participants agree to ensure that the recording is for personal use only and should not be shared.

ACCESSING THE EVENT ONLINE

System Requirements: The CPD event will usually be delivered using the Zoom platform. You can attend the online session from a private space using a compatible computer or tablet connected to the internet. You will need to download Zoom to access the session: <https://zoom.us/> Please make sure you have the most recent version of Zoom. Please note, some organisations have additional security settings that may prevent you from accessing the CPD event on an organisational device. Please also ensure that you have the required bandwidth and internet speed. You can test whether you are able to join a Zoom meeting here: <https://zoom.us/test> Relationships Scotland are unable to provide refunds when there are issues with a participant's IT which prevents them from accessing the CPD event. Please contact the CPD Manager if you are unsure about how to use the technology sonia.bruce@relationships-scotland.org.uk

Accessing the Event: A link to the webinar will be sent out a few days before the event. Please ensure that the email address to which the link should be sent is clear in the Booking Form. When you first access the event you will be asked to register with your name and email address before being admitted to the session. It is important that the Zoom account uses the same name that you used to register for the event. The Relationships Scotland CPD Host will use this information to confirm attendance. The username for your Zoom account can be amended by signing into Zoom and going to the profile section of your account. The link to the recording of the webinar will be sent out to participants shortly after the event.