



Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>

**FW: Cooke - Dispute Resolution Conference - Part 2 Wednesday 18 September**

6 messages

Avalon Carnall <acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au>

Fri, Sep 13, 2024 at 9:10 AM

To: "Mr Stephen Christopher Cooke (Client)" <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>

Cc: Matthew Shepherd <mshepherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au>

Dear Stephen,

Please find **attached** the orders sought by Heather (for the purposes of mediation on Wednesday).

The spend time orders look to be largely the same as those sought in her Response.

However, she has included orders that:

1. your time is conditional upon certain amounts of screen time being minimised, and access to certain games/movies not being higher than 'PG' standards.
2. If one of boys becomes unwell in your care, you are to provide whichever child is unwell to Heather so she can seek medical attention for them.

It will take me some time to review our suggested response to Delaney and amend into a letter from us (noting your response is in the first person).

As mentioned during our phone call and by Matthew, the deadline they have provided is unrealistic and it may be that this issue is better discussed on Wednesday (than re-working a response into a letter in a short amount of time).

Regards,

AVALON CARNALL

Lawyer

D: (02) 8123 1279**E:** acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.auA SMARTER
PERSPECTIVE

T: 1300 749 709 | **W:** ramsdenfamilylaw.com.au

A: Level 3, [1 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000](#)

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From: Anna Roberts <aroberts@delaneyroberts.com.au>

Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 10:57 AM

To: Avalon Carnall <acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au>; Associate.sjrKelly@fcfcoa.gov.au

Cc: Matthew Shepherd <mshepherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au>; Olivia Shedden <oshedden@delaneyroberts.com.au>; 'JLFamily Lawyers' <admin@jlmfamilylawyers.com.au>; Tayleh Soames <tsoames@delaneyroberts.com.au>

Subject: FW: Cooke - Dispute Resolution Conference - Part 2 Wednesday 18 September

Dear Associate,

Further to our email of yesterday's date, please find **attached** the draft Minute of Order for the Respondent Mother.

Yours faithfully

ANNA ROBERTS

Director, Solicitor & Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner

BComm LLB GradDipLegPracM.AppLaw (Family Law) Grad Dip (FDRP)



T 02 4952 3901

E aroberts@delaneyroberts.com.au

Sydney Office: Level 15, [370 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000](#)

Newcastle Office: Suite 1, Level 1, 317 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2000

Adamstown Office: [274 Brunker Road, Adamstown NSW 2289](#)

Postal Address: PO Box 206, Adamstown NSW 2289

www.delaneyroberts.com.au

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**Draft Minute of Order - FDR.pdf**

80K

Avalon Carnall <acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au>
To: "Mr Stephen Christopher Cooke (Client)" <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>
Cc: Matthew Shepherd <mshepherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au>

Fri, Sep 13, 2024 at 10:22 AM

Dear Stephen,

Further to my email below, I have had the opportunity to speak with Matthew briefly whilst he was between his mediation.

Your suggested response raises many and complex issues, both retrospectively and prospectively.

We unfortunately do not have time to draft and consider with you a detailed response to the other side.

We suggest we send the below email in response.

In any event, these issues are best discussed at the dispute resolution conference on Wednesday.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Dear colleague,

Our client agrees that there should be similar rules around screen time and content consumption in each household such as 2 hours each weeknight.

Our client agrees with the concern around Christian's degree of interest in "Five Nights at Freddy's". One difficulty is that many of his friends play the game.

Our client also agrees with the proposition that both parents should ensure the children view content of the same ratings in both households. This appears to be an issue of concern to both parties and needs to be properly discussed. The Conference on Wednesday provides an opportunity to do so.

Regards,

AVALON CARNALL

Lawyer

D: (02) 8123 1279

E: acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au



A SMARTER
PERSPECTIVE

T: 1300 749 709 | **W:** ramsdenfamilylaw.com.au

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[Quoted text hidden]

Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>
To: Avalon Carnall <acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au>
Cc: Matthew Shepherd <mshpherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au>

Fri, Sep 13, 2024 at 11:13 AM

Thank and I agree but need to expand upon; Our client agrees with the concern around Christian's degree of interest in "Five Nights at Freddy's". One difficulty is that many of his friends play the game and have the merchandise; toys, plushies, etc

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5 attachments



A SMARTER
PERSPECTIVE **image001.png**
12K



Avalon Carnall <acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au>
To: Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>
Cc: Matthew Shepherd <mshpherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au>

Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 2:57 AM

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your instructions.

Please see revised email below.

Please let me know if you're happy for me to send this off this morning.

Dear colleague,

Our client agrees that there should be similar rules around screen time and content consumption in each household such as 2 hours each weeknight.

*Our client agrees with the concern around Christian's degree of interest in "Five Nights at Freddy's". One difficulty is that many of his friends play the game **and have the merchandise including toys, plushies, etc.***

Our client also agrees with the proposition that both parents should ensure the children view content of the same ratings in both households. This appears to be an issue of concern to both parties and needs to be properly discussed. The Conference on Wednesday provides an opportunity to do so.

Regards,

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Lawyer

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PERSPECTIVE

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From: Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 5:14 PM
To: Avalon Carnall <acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au>
Cc: Matthew Shepherd <mshepherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au>
Subject: Re: Cooke - Dispute Resolution Conference - Part 2 Wednesday 18 September

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On Fri, 13 Sept 2024, 4:22 pm Avalon Carnall, <acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au> wrote:

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T: 1300 749 709 | **W:** ramsdenfamilylaw.com.au

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From: Avalon Carnall

Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 3:10 PM

To: 'Mr Stephen Christopher Cooke (Client)' <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>

Cc: Matthew Shepherd <mshepherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au>

Subject: FW: Cooke - Dispute Resolution Conference - Part 2 Wednesday 18 September

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Subject: FW: Cooke - Dispute Resolution Conference - Part 2 Wednesday 18 September

Dear Associate,

Further to our email of yesterday's date, please find **attached** the draft Minute of Order for the Respondent

Mother.

Yours faithfully

ANNA ROBERTS

Director, Solicitor & Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner
BComn LLB GradDipLegPracM.AppLaw (Family Law) Grad Dip (FDRP)

T 02 4952 3901

E aroberts@delaneyroberts.com.au

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Matthew Shepherd <mshpherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au>

Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 4:50 AM

To: Avalon Carnall <acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au>, Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>

Dear Stephen

Friday last week

I agree with the short email prepared by Avalon. A long detailed email at this stage will probably distract Heather as much as engage her. Wednesday provides an opportunity for a more expansive conversation. Let us know if you want us to send it.

I attach Avalon's detailed notes from Friday morning. I imagine that the Registrar asked Heather similar questions to those she asked her. They might be asked again on Wednesday.

I agree with the Registrar's comment that if a person (Person 1) in a conflict thinks it is all due to the other person (Person 2) and they themselves (Person 1) can do nothing, Person 1 is giving up all power to the other person. If Person1 wants to get back some power, they should think about what they have that the other person needs. The more things Heather needs, or asks you for, the better. Some may be less important to you (or you might agree with some) and you can agree to them in return for things that are important to you.

Part of a negotiation is spending some time listening and trying to find out what is important to the other person which might be less important to you and therefore can be agreed to in return for what is important to you. For example, it seems important to Heather to:

- a. have similar rules for the boys in each household re screen time and content.
- b. Know your address. One suggestion is that you both keep the other informed about your addresses.
- c. Her draft Orders also contain some things I discuss below which might not be an issue and can be traded for what is important to you. Avalon sent them to you on Friday, and I attach again. See my comments below.

Heather's suggested orders

- i. Like you, Heather proposes half school holidays. She has a different system for how this is structured. You might be agreeable to using some aspects of her system in return for things you think best for the boys such as travel.
- ii. Her Orders provide for special occasions – and so do yours. You may be giving nothing away therefore by agreeing to her Orders about special occasions – again in return for what is important to you.
- iii. Some of her Orders are expressed to bind you but can be refined as mutual and therefore binding on both of you. For example, Order 3c re 2 hours screen time weekdays and 4 hours weekends. I do not know what you think about restricting the boys to G or PG rated content? Another option is to follow the [advisory ratings for age levels](#).
- iv. If you are agreeable, you could propose her Order 9 be binding on both of you (so neither of you can consume alcohol in excess of .05 when the children are in your care).

These are just some examples of things you might want to trade with Heather for things important to you such as the boy's time with you. In the absence of agreement, it is also useful to keep in mind what the Court might do at a final hearing. Mutual Orders re following age specific advisory ratings and not drinking to excess when the boys are with each of you are likely to be made by a court if sought by one of you.

We should review the Orders sought in your Minute of Orders and also Heather's. Do you have time tomorrow? Or today at 1 or 2?

Regards,

MATTHEW SHEPHERD

Special Counsel

Accredited Specialist in Family Law

D: (02) 8123 1229

E: mshepherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au



A SMARTER
PERSPECTIVE

T: 1300 749 709 | **W:** ramsdenfamilylaw.com.au

A: Level 3, 1 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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BOOK A
MEDIATION WITH ME

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2 attachments



File Note - Part 1 DRCP with SJR Kelly and Stephen Cooke 13.09.2024 (1).docx
26K



Draft Minute of Order - FDR.pdf
80K

Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>
To: Avalon Carnall <acarnall@ramsdenlaw.com.au>
Cc: Matthew Shepherd <mshepherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au>

Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 5:19 AM

Please proceed with;

Dear Colleague,

Our client agrees that there should be similar rules around screen time and content consumption in each household, such as 2 hours each weeknight. To address this, our client has taken steps to control content exposure at home by creating a separate VLAN/WiFi network with restricted access, utilizing NEXTDNS to block inappropriate content, including YouTube.

Both clients also share the concern about Christian's interest in "Five Nights at Freddy's" merchandise and shows. However, this issue is further complicated by Christian's ADHD and requires additional care, context, and understanding. Both clients have, according to our client, at times fostered Christian's interest by purchasing "Freddy" merchandise, which, according to our client, is also Christian's assertion.

Our client feels this issue should be handled with extra care and discussed further at the upcoming mediation. Both parents need to work together to ensure consistent rules around content and provide Christian with unified guidance.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further at the Conference on Wednesday.

Kind regards,

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A SMARTER
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