



EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION
PROJECT 100D: ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN FAMILY MATTERS
RENEWED CALL FOR COMMENT BY 31 JULY 2022**

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) is making a renewed call for comment on its Discussion Paper on alternative dispute resolution in family matters (Discussion Paper 148) by 31 July 2022. The Discussion Paper includes a draft Family Dispute Resolution Bill. Discussion Paper 148 is available on the Commission's website: <http://www.justice.gov.za/salrc/index.htm>.

The aim of the draft Family Dispute Resolution Bill is to further the development of a family justice system that will provide better access to justice; provide appropriate resolution of all family related disputes, allow the voices of children, parents and other family members to be heard; and to reduce legal costs. Alternative dispute resolution processes such as mandatory family mediation, family arbitration, collaborative dispute resolution and parenting coordination are regulated in the Bill. The Bill further acknowledges the importance of providing parties with the necessary information and education in order to ensure an awareness of their own rights and obligations as well as insight into how the family law system works.

Respondents are requested to submit written comments or representations on the discussion paper and draft Bill to the SALRC by no later than **31 July 2022**. There is no need to re-submit submissions that have already been submitted during the first call for comments.

Due to COVID-19 the SALRC has been unable to complete the envisaged series of in

person workshops. During the extended time for comments the SALRC will be hosting a few virtual consultations to engage with the remaining stakeholders it has been unable to consult with. Invitations will be circulated in due course.

The contact person for enquiries in respect of the media statement, submissions and the virtual consultations is Ms D Clark: email DClark@justice.gov.za.

ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY, SA LAW REFORM COMMISSION, CENTURION

DATE: 16 May 2022

EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE