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To: [Consultation 2018](#)
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As a non-family law lawyer, but one that just finished a divorce proceeding I am very concerned that this alternate legal service process will increase costs. The concern is the loss of the 'governor' effect that legal fees produce. Further, the lack of experienced professional advice can lead to unrealistic expectations in a party, again resulting in delay, costs and lack of resolution.

However, if a more preventative approach is encouraged, for example, I am seeing more blended families that need advice to have clarity in marriage agreements - to promote estate planning etc... this may be an area where alternate legal service providers could be of assistance.

At present, I have several clients who would welcome a marriage agreement to supplement their estate plan, but we have a backlog of more litigious family cases clogging up the family bar.

PS Family law is one of the most complex and changing regimes. The rights and obligations have substantively changed in the past few years, yet there are always 'exceptions' that create areas to fight over. It is the nature of our progressive and changing understanding (and to the benefit of most) of the issues that has improved the law, but nevertheless, all this change comes with additional legal costs and barriers to accessing lawyers.

The point is, while we could improve access to justice by dumbing down the providers, this should not be done without some skin in the game from the government, via improved funding for legal aid or the ability to have fewer attendances in court in person. The Court system needs to look at providing more access using technology without all the need to get orders ahead of time to do so.

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