

**Conduct, Fault and Family Law**

In the introduction to this text the author states the aims of his publication as:

1. To advance arguments for and against fault in ancillary proceedings under the Family Law Act 1975, and
2. To examine the relevance of conduct under the Family Law Act 1975.

The text is intended as a legal study and not as a sociological or psychological study.

This publication does not succeed in reflecting to the same extent the practical aspects of the Burrett work reviewed above. It does, however, comprehensively cover the authorities to the date of the text on the concept of fault in ancillary proceedings and the relevance of various forms of conduct to proceedings under the Family Law Act 1975. Mr Katter also reviews all of the community's arguments concerning fault and conduct and seeks to distinguish between the two concepts. This is not always a distinction made by practitioners. "Conduct" influencing a family law matter does not always seek to lay "fault" at the feet of either party but may still affect the outcome of a matter.

This is an academic work more for the theorists of family law and while being informative reading, does not seek to give practical guidance concerning the topics it addresses, but rather to draw together relevant arguments and to explain, in a technical sense, the place of those concepts in modern family law. It is a technical rather than a practical book for lawyers. The book contains a comprehensive list of references in its Bibliography which would be of assistance to any practitioner looking for further research in the area.

Both of the books reviewed add a written dimension to the topic they seek to address. As such, they are worthwhile additions to a practitioner's library in the family law area.

Susan Gardiner  
Deputy Registrar  
Family Court of Australia  
Brisbane