

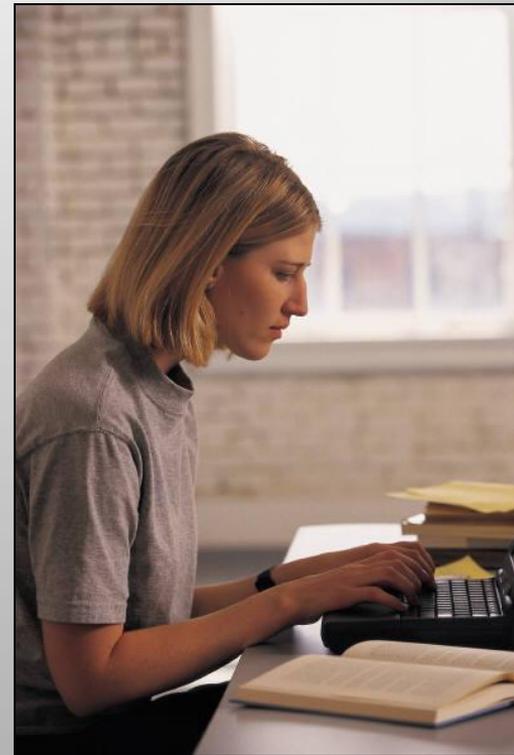
Service with a Tweet

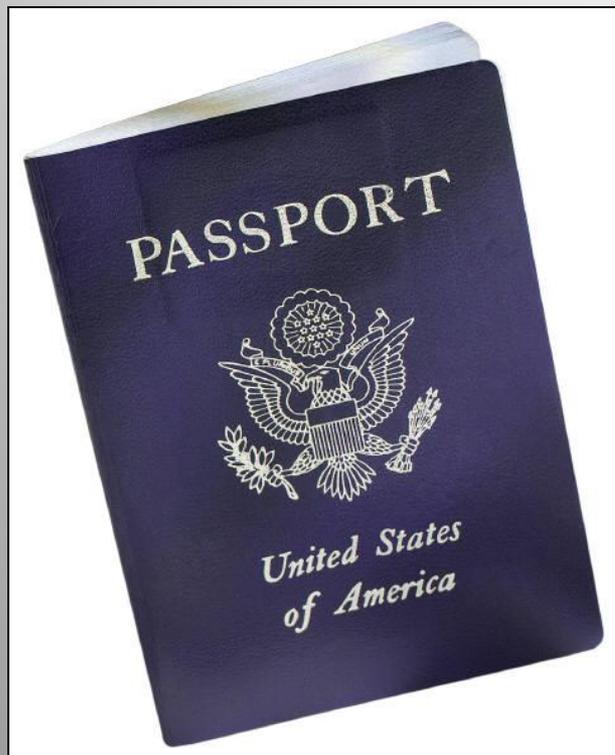
Legal Aid NSW Family Law and Care and
Protection Conference, September 2011

Emerging Practices in
Electronic Service

Your client Roxy is 22. She is a keen gamer and spends most of her time online, on gaming and social networking sites. About 18 months ago she met a man on the online game “World of Warcraft”.

Originally, she only knew him as Skywalker_91 but later finds out from his Facebook profile that his name is John Edwards and he is alumni from Springfield State School in Texas USA. He does not give a home address.





After a few friendly “pokes” and wall posts on Facebook they started emailing each other and then went on to communicating via “Skype”.

After a couple of months, John tells Roxy he is “coming to Australia on holidays and can they hook-up ?”.

Roxy meets up with John at his hotel in Sydney and they hang out for the next few weeks.

A few weeks after John goes home, Roxy starts to feel sick in the mornings...

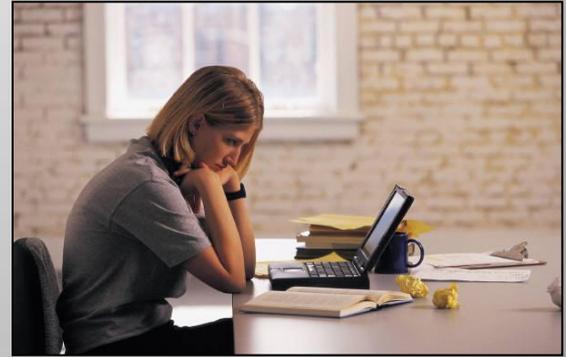
omg !

Roxy emails John

“We need to talk...”



John is responsive at first and seems to want to be involved, but as the pregnancy progresses, he contacts Roxy less and less.



Several months later baby Leeroy is born, Roxy posts some photos on her Facebook profile and tags John. The following week, Roxy tries to access John's Facebook profile, but finds she has been “de-friended”.

She is nervous about emailing him again because she thinks he might change his email address and she will lose contact with him.

Meanwhile, Centrelink has cut off Roxy's payments for Leeroy and she needs help. She has applied to the Child Support Agency for child support and her application has been refused.



Questions:

- Do you contact John and if so, how ?
- Can John sign a Statutory Declaration if he agrees he is the parent ?
- Can you commence court proceedings ?
- If so, how can John be served ?
- What about DNA testing ?

Case Study: Service by Skype

