



### **Parenting After Separation Sessions**

Parenting After Separation (PAS) is a free, three-hour information session for parents and other family members, such as grandparents or step-parents.

This session provides very helpful information about all the issues around separation and divorce. It is available throughout the province.

Your local Family Justice Centre can provide you with information on how to access PAS. (See back panel for contact details regarding these centres.)

### **How Do I Contact a Family Justice Centre?**

To contact a Family Justice Centre near you, you can call Enquiry BC between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, and ask the operator to transfer you.

### **To Reach Enquiry BC:**

In Greater Victoria, call: **250 387-6121**

In Greater Vancouver, call: **604 660-2421**

Elsewhere in BC, call toll free: **1 800 663-7867**

You can also call the Family Justice Centre directly. Look in the blue pages of your telephone book under "Provincial Government."

You can find the telephone number of your local Family Justice Centre by going online to Clicklaw:

**[www.clicklaw.bc.ca/helpmap/service/1019](http://www.clicklaw.bc.ca/helpmap/service/1019)**

### **Ask What Services are Available**

All Family Justice Centres have family justice counsellors.

Some Family Justice Centres also have:

- staff with special expertise in the Child Support Guidelines;
- staff from the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP), which collects and tracks support payments for parents enrolled in FMEP; and
- lawyers who give legal advice to parents who are financially eligible for the service.

Ask your local Family Justice Centre about the services they can provide.

### **Online Information**

For more information about issues around separation and divorce: **[www.gov.bc.ca/familyjustice](http://www.gov.bc.ca/familyjustice)**

For teens, children and parents: **[www.familieschange.ca](http://www.familieschange.ca)**

For information about Supreme Court:

**[www.supremecourtsselfhelp.bc.ca](http://www.supremecourtsselfhelp.bc.ca)**

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# Family Justice Centres

Services for Families Experiencing Separation or Divorce





## What is a Family Justice Centre?

Family Justice Centres operate across the province. These centres are staffed by family justice counsellors who can assist you with issues related to separation or divorce. They provide services free of charge to parents and other family members.



### Who are Family Justice Counsellors?

Family justice counsellors are people who are professionally trained to assist you in making important decisions when experiencing separation or divorce. For example, you may need to sort out parental responsibilities, who the child will live with, when they will see each parent and how much child support will be paid. Family justice counsellors are accredited mediators. That means they are qualified to help you work with the other parent to resolve these issues.



### When Do I Talk to a Family Justice Counsellor?

You may wish to talk to a family justice counsellor if you:

- need help in coming to an agreement with the other parent about parenting arrangements, including parental responsibilities and parenting time, contact with a child, spousal and child support;
- want to obtain or change an existing order regarding guardianship, parenting arrangements, contact with a child or support matters in court; or
- would like to learn about the Child Support Guidelines, the court process or services that are available to help you and your family adjust to separation and divorce.



### How Can a Family Justice Counsellor Help Me?

Family justice counsellors are trained to provide:

- emotional support and short-term counselling;

- referrals to emergency and community services;
- mediation services for post-separation family related matters such as guardianship, parental responsibilities, parenting time, contact with a child or child and spousal support;
- court-ordered s.211 assessments and reports, regarding parenting arrangements, contact with a child, and views of the child(ren);
- information for people about how to obtain or change a family related agreement and order in court; and
- information about Child Support Guidelines and Parenting After Separation sessions.

Family justice counsellors provide information. If you need legal advice, they can refer you to legal advice services.

### Confidentiality

Your meetings with a family justice counsellor are confidential.

Information you provide to family justice counsellors cannot be shared with anyone, even in court.

There are a few exceptions to this, including where there is an allegation of child abuse or where there is an immediate risk of serious harm to a person or property. In these cases, a family justice counsellor must make a report to a social worker or the police. Other exceptions are described in Part 2 of the Family Law Act Regulation.

For more information, talk to your family justice counsellor.