



Service BC

The Service BC Contact Centre can give you the phone number of the nearest Family Justice Centre or Justice Access Centre, which offers services for families experiencing separation or divorce.

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

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

In other areas of the province, call toll free:
1 800 663-7867

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When your matter is urgent

If you're concerned about the safety of you or your child/youth, or, you feel your situation is urgent, tell court registry staff when you file your application.

How do I take a course?

- You can access the Parenting After Separation courses at:
www.gov.bc.ca/parentingafterseparation
- You can also find more information about these courses and other services at:
www.gov.bc.ca/familyjustice



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PARENTING AFTER SEPARATION

FOR YOUR CHILD/YOUTH'S FUTURE



Free courses

- Are you a parent or other family member who is dealing with separation or divorce and facing decisions that affect your child/youth?
- Are you helping a child/youth adjust to changes after family separation?
- Would you like information about options for resolving family disputes, including mediation, counselling and court?

What is Parenting After Separation (PAS)?

Parents and others who have a responsibility to make decisions for children/youth can take one of the Parenting After Separation online courses.

Parenting After Separation is made available by the Ministry of Attorney General. The purpose of these courses is to help people make informed choices about family separation that focus on the best interests of the child.

If you or a family member identify as Indigenous, you can take the online Parenting After Separation for Indigenous Families course.



What will I learn?

- How adults and children/youth experience the process of separation.
- Strategies to help families adjust to change. How to speak to children/youth about separation.
- Effective ways to communicate to reduce conflict. How to keep children/youth out of the middle of conflict.
- Options for resolving family disputes, including mediation, counselling and the court process.
- How the Child Support Guidelines are applied. Resources in the community for parents and children/youth.

Legal advice is not provided.

How much does it cost?

Parenting After Separation is free.

Who takes Parenting After Separation and when?

Parenting After Separation is available online for all adults dealing with issues of guardianship, parental responsibilities, parenting time, contact with a child/youth and/or support.

In British Columbia, parents **must** complete a Parenting After Separation course and receive a Certificate of Completion before going to court on matters such as guardianship, parenting arrangements (including parental responsibilities, parenting time), contact with a child/youth, child support and spousal support. This also includes changing an existing order for these matters. A certificate from any of the BC Parenting After Separation courses satisfies the court requirement. Your certificate expires after 24 months.

The requirement to complete a course applies to:

- Both parents, whether they are married, living common law or have never lived together.
- Other parties who have made an application to court, such as grandparents and step-parents.