

Where are the sessions offered?

Enquiry BC can give you the phone number of the nearest Family Justice Centre or Justice Access Centre that can help you find the session closest to you.

Enquiry BC

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

You can also find more information about these sessions at:

www.gov.bc.ca/familyjustice

Parenting After Separation is available online at

www.familieschange.ca

Online PAS is available for voluntary participation and may be mandatory in some court registries. It does not replace the need to attend the in-person mandatory session required in many court registries.

To find out more about Parenting After Separation information sessions or to register for a session, please contact:

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Ministry of
Justice

Parenting After Separation

For your child's future



Free Information Sessions

- ▶ Are you a parent currently going through separation?
- ▶ Are you helping children adjust to changes after family separation?
- ▶ Would you like information about options for resolving family disputes, including mediation, counselling and court?

What are Parenting After Separation (PAS) information sessions?

Parenting After Separation is a three-hour information session for parents and others who have a responsibility to make decisions for children.

Sessions are sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. Their purpose is to help people make informed choices about family separation that focus on the best interests of the children.

Each session is led by facilitators experienced in helping families.

What will I learn at the session?

- ▶ How adults and children experience the process of separation.
- ▶ Strategies to help families adjust to change.
- ▶ How to speak to children about separation.
- ▶ Effective ways to communicate to reduce conflict.
- ▶ How to keep children 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.

Legal advice is not provided at the information session.



How much does it cost?

The sessions are free. Child care services are not provided while you are attending.

Who attends Parenting After Separation and when?

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

The sessions are available at various times. Specific information for your community is available upon registration.

If both parents are registered, they will attend separate Parenting After Separation sessions.

In some communities in British Columbia, parents **must** attend a Parenting After Separation session before going to court on matters such as guardianship, parenting arrangements (including parental responsibilities, parenting time), contact with a child and/or support. This also includes changing an existing order for these matters. Your record of attendance expires after 24 months. The court registry where you file your application to court can tell you if attendance is mandatory.

In these communities:

- ▶ Both parents must attend, 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, must attend a Parenting After Separation session.

When your matter is urgent

If the safety of you and your children is of concern, or you feel your situation is urgent, tell court registry staff when you file your application.

