



Surrey Early Resolution Process

Summary of Evaluation Findings



Implemented in Surrey
**December 7
2020**

Evaluation period:
Dec 7, 2020 to November 2023
ER Process activities (tracked):
Jan 1, 2021 to Feb 28, 2023

The **Early Resolution Process (ERP)** applies where a party is seeking to resolve a family law matter as defined by the Provincial Court Family Rules. It requires parties with a family law matter to complete the following services before filing an application in Provincial Court:

- a needs assessment with a family justice counsellor (FJC)
- a parenting education program, if applicable
- one consensual dispute resolution (CDR) session, if appropriate.

Volume of Activities

Family Justice Services Activities

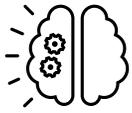
9,683 Interviews & Assessments **2,074** CDR-related activities

Court Activities

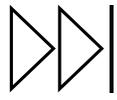
1,550 Notice to Resolve filed **586** Application About a Family Law Matter filed

Outcomes

The early resolution process:



Increases understanding of family justice process, options and needs



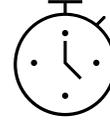
Provides appropriate and early responses to family needs



Helps prepare families for next steps



Increases the use of CDR and helps parties narrow or resolve issues



Is timely



Improves the effective and efficient use of court

68%

of families who participated in CDR resolved some or all issues



Clients' Experiences

86%

Agreed it is helpful to have a Needs Assessment conducted by an FJC

81%

Agreed a needs assessment with an FJC should be required

82%

Agreed needs assessment helped them understand their family law matters

79%

Agreed needs assessment helped them understand options to resolve matter

83%

Agreed that CDR is helpful when appropriate

83%

Agreed CDR should be required if determined to be appropriate

81%

Considered the time from assessment to completion of CDR to be reasonable

79%

Clients who mentioned safety concerns who believe FJCs understood their concerns

Flow of cases through ERP

Linked case data

Median time for completion



Proceeding to Court: Post-ERP

Decline in new family law cases



-45%

Decrease in total duration of court time in new family law cases in Surrey

Diverts cases that can be resolved out of court; those that remain need court involvement

+27%

Change in proportion of new family law cases with an appearance