



Parenting After Separation sessions

This is a free, three-hour information session for parents and other family members, such as grandparents or step-parents.

These sessions provide very helpful information about all the issues around separation and divorce. They are available throughout the province.

To find a Parenting After Separation session near you, call your local family justice centre. (See back panel for contact details.)

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 the Family Justice website (see below). Look under "Other Resources" then click on "How to reach us."

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
- 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: <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/family-justice/index.htm>

For teens and children: <http://www.familieschange.ca>

For information about Supreme Court: <http://www.supremecourtselfhelp.bc.ca>

Family Justice CENTRES

Services for families experiencing
separation or divorce



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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 decide who the children 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 a family justice counsellor if you:

- need help in coming to an agreement with the other parent about custody, guardianship, access, spousal support or child support.
- want to obtain or change a custody, guardianship, access or support order in Court.
- 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 custody, guardianship, access, spousal support or child support
- custody and access assessments when ordered by the court
- information for people about how to obtain or change child custody, guardianship, access and support orders or agreements in Court
- 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, unless you provide consent.

There are two exceptions to this: where there is an allegation of child abuse or where required under the Criminal Code of Canada. In these cases a family justice counsellor must make a report to a social worker or the police.

For more information, talk to your family justice counsellor.