Legal Aid BC Overview of Intake and resources

Recorded on June 3





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Working With Legal Aid BC Intake



Deneen, Provincial Supervisors, Legal Aid Applications June, 2021





Legal Aid BC

Community Partners

We have 26 community partners providing services in 33 communities around the province.

Clients can:

- ➤ get free legal information;
- ➤ call Legal Aid;
- ➢ find nearest Legal Aid office;
- ➢ get legal help online; and
- connect with people who can help.





Legal Advice

Family LawLINE

The Family Law Line is staffed by lawyers who give legal advice over the telephone for Family Law and Child Protection issues.

Duty Counsel

Duty Counsel provides in-person legal advice in the following areas of law:

- Immigration Law (if in detention)
- Family/Child Protection Law
- Criminal Law







Parents Legal Centre (PLC)

Locations and Geographical Areas they cover

PLC	Geographical Location
Campbell River	Campbell River, Courtenay, Port Alberni, Port Hardy
Duncan	Duncan, Nanaimo
Kamloops	Kamloops, Clearwater, Lillooet, Merritt
Prince George	Prince George, Fort St. James, Quesnel, Vanderhoof
Smithers/Hazelton	Smithers, Hazelton, Burns Lake, Houston
Surrey	Surrey
Terrace	Terrace, Kitimat, Prince Rupert
Vancouver	Vancouver
Victoria	Victoria, Colwood
Williams Lake	Williams Lake, 100 Mile House

We have 10 PLCs across the Province, who deal with clients in the city they are located in, as well as other geographical locations.



Applying for Legal Aid In Person or Over the Phone

Come into one of our 31 **Legal Aid offices** to apply for legal aid and to obtain legal information. Contact information is available on our website www.legalaid.bc.ca. *Cranbrook and Nelson offices are currently closed, but we are looking for a Local Agent for those communities.*

Call the **Legal Aid BC Provincial Call Centre** at 604-408-2172 in Greater Vancouver or 1-866-577-2525 (toll free).

We also have a designated line for clients who are in custody.

Clients applying for Immigration matters can call the Legal Aid BC **Immigration Line** at 604-601-6076 or 1-888-601-6076 (toll free).



What Legal Problems Are Eligible For Coverage?



Clients applying for legal aid must qualify both financially and their legal issue must be something we cover.

Criminal

- We provide Standard Contracts where charges are serious and there is a likelihood of jail.
- Criminal Early Resolution Contracts (CERC's) Where there is no likelihood of jail, or the client is over our Standard financial guidelines but within \$1,000 of our standard financial guidelines, or both. In the past, if clients did not have a likelihood of jail or were over our Standard financial guidelines, they would have been refused.
- Exceptions to the "likelihood of jail" rule.



Family Law

Serious family situations (Standard Coverage) regarding parenting issues (guardianship, parenting arrangements or custody/access), protection orders, child support, and more, depending on the issues. And the issues need to be addressed immediately to ensure the safety of the children and/or the client, as well as the parent/child bond. There are exceptions to these guidelines, that we can address under what we call an Exception Review.

For clients that don't fit within the above guidelines we now have **Limited Representation Contracts** that provide support for issues that we don't consider as serious or urgent as our Standard coverage guidelines. Like Criminal, clients approved for this service would have been refused in the past.





CFCSA (Child Protection and Removal)

Where the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or a Designated Agency has removed a child(ren) or where there is a risk or threat of a child(ren) being removed. This could also include custody and/or access issues arising from a child in care.





Reciprocals - Where the client lives in one province and their Family or CFCSA matter is in another province.





Immigration - Where the client wants to make a claim for refugee status or where the client faces an immigration proceeding that may result in their removal from Canada.

Call Centre Immigration Line: 604-601-6076 for 1-888-601-6076





Financial Eligibility

Representation Income Chart (Monthly Net Income)

Household Size	Standard and Limited Representation Cases	CFCSA Cases and CERC's
1	\$1,670	\$2,670
2	\$2,340	\$3,340
3	\$3,010	\$4,010
4	\$3,680	\$4,680
5	\$4,350	\$5,350
6	\$5,020	\$6,020
7 or more	\$5,690	\$6,690

Effective: April 1, 2021



Financial Eligibility

Personal Property Exemption Limit (All case types)

Household Size	Exemption
1	\$2,000
2	\$4,000
3	\$4,500
4	\$5,000
5	\$5,500
6 or more	\$6,000

Effective: April 1, 2021



Financial Eligibility Legal Advice Guidelines

Household Size	Monthly Net Income
1 - 4	\$3,680
5	\$4,350
6	\$5,050
7 or more	\$5,720

Effective: April 1, 2021



Financial Discretionary Coverage

Legal Representation – Criminal, Family, Immigration, and Appeal Cases

- A file can be sent for a Discretionary Coverage Review if an applicant is over the financial eligibility guidelines on income by approximately \$100 – \$200 for Criminal (if a client has a Trial or Pre-Trial set and wouldn't qualify for a CERC), Family (if a client's issues are coverable under our Standard guidelines), Immigration, and Appeal cases, or on assets by \$500 for all areas of law, including CFCSA cases, and the matter is a serious and complex case and there is available budget.
- There is no Income Discretionary Coverage Reviews on CFCSA cases as all CFCSA clients are already allowed an additional \$1,000 per month for income.





Requesting a Review of a Denial of Legal Aid

A client can request a review of a denial for legal aid

- ➤ This request must be in writing.
- > The client should state why they disagree with the denial and explain why they believe they should get legal aid.
- ➤ The client should include any supporting documents.

Coverage and **Financial Eligibility** Reviews must be submitted within **30 days** of the denial of legal aid

to:



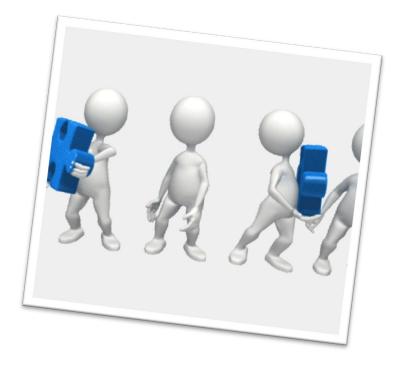
Provincial Supervisor Vancouver Regional Centre 425 – 510 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC V6C 3A8 Fax: 604-682-0787 Email: <u>provincialsupervisors@legalaid.bc.ca</u>



Working Together

Hopefully this presentation was beneficial and will assist you in helping your clients:

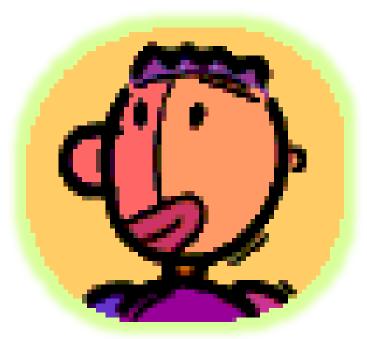
- Understand the intake process
- Prepare for the interview
- > Organize documentation
- Make sure they follow up on the status of their file and provide Intake staff with requested information





Presenter: Deneen Provincial Supervisor, Legal Aid Applications

Phone: 604-601-6217
Fax: 604-682-0787
E-Mail: deneen.vancouver@legalaid.bc.ca





Criminal Coverage Guidelines

General

To qualify for legal representation, an applicant must:

- be financially eligible, except for specified exceptions, and
- have a Criminal law problem covered by the Criminal Coverage guidelines.

An applicant is covered for Standard Coverage if he or she:

- faces a Criminal proceeding,
- ✤ is charged with a Criminal offence, and
- if convicted, faces a risk of jail (includes house arrest).

An applicant does not have to permanently reside in BC or hold Canadian citizenship to qualify for legal representation.

Exception

If an applicant has been charged with spousal assault (summary or indictable offence) where:

there's no risk of jail if convicted,

AND

 they have a contract for a Family or CFCSA issue that might be negatively affected by the spousal assault charge,

the file is sent to the Provincial Supervisor, Legal Aid Applications, for an Exception Review (see "Exception Reviews Guidelines" on pages 10/11 at the end of this document).

Additional grounds for coverage

Less serious summary offences may be covered for adult applicants in very limited circumstances.

An applicant who does not necessarily face a risk of jail may be covered for a Standard Contract if he or she:

- faces a loss of livelihood upon conviction,
- has a mental or physical disability,
- faces Immigration complications that may result in deportation, or
- is charged with a Hunting and/or Fishing offence and who self-identifies as Aboriginal.

Criminal Early Resolution Contracts (CERC's)

Criminal Early Resolution Contracts (CERC's) provide non-trial resolution services, including summary advice and assistance to clients not eligible for a Standard Representation Contract. Criminal Early Resolution Contracts can be issued to any lawyer who takes Criminal law contracts.

An applicant may be covered if they:

- have a Criminal charge proceeding in Provincial or Supreme Court, and
- meet the expanded Eligibility guidelines for a Criminal Early Resolution Contract, which are over the Standard Criminal guidelines by \$1000 on net monthly income.

<u>NOTE</u>: The applicant doesn't need to face a risk of jail upon conviction to be eligible for a Criminal Early Resolution Contract (CERC).

A Criminal Early Resolution Contract:

- is a 6-month contract that focuses on resolution services but does not include going to trial,
- ✤ is eligible for Travel authorization, and
- is eligible for a change of counsel in limited circumstances. All change of counsel requests must be reviewed by a Provincial Supervisor.

An applicant **isn't** eligible for a Criminal Early Resolution Contract if:

- the applicant is a Youth,
- the applicant is detained in custody after a bail hearing,
- the applicant has a trial or preliminary hearing date set, or
- the applicant has an open Criminal Standard Representation Contract.

With a CERC contract, the lawyer will provide services to try to achieve early resolution of cases, such as:

- meeting with the client and reviewing Particulars,
- providing summary advice including procedural advice on self-represented trials,
- determining if resolution should be pursued,
- engaging with Crown to seek non-trial resolution,
- appearing in court for disposition/resolution as appropriate, and
- if not suited for resolution, terminate service with direction to the client on next steps to self-represent.

<u>NOTE</u>: Criminal Early Resolution Contracts do not allow for representation at trials or preliminary hearings.

Aboriginal hunting and fishing rights

An applicant is covered for a Standard Contract if:

- they are Aboriginal, and
- the alleged offence:
 - > occurred in a geographic area the applicant claims is his or her traditional territory, or
 - > involves a traditional right; or
 - occurred outside the applicant's traditional territory, but involves the exercise of an existing Aboriginal right extended to the individual by:
 - a traditional Aboriginal law or custom,
 - a Band bylaw, or
 - Aboriginal government legislation.
- the applicant does not have to face a risk of jail if convicted.

<u>NOTE</u>: If a client does not qualify financially for legal aid they may be able to go to court and make a "Rowbotham" application. Before a client can apply for a "Rowbotham" application the client must apply for legal aid. They must be refused by the Legal Aid BC intake worker, then they must ask, in writing, for that decision to be reviewed. If the review is also denied, the client will be sent a letter along with our booklet "If You Can't Get Legal Aid for Your Criminal Trial" or a link to the booklet, which explains how to apply to the courts for a court appointed lawyer to assist them with their matter.

Youths

Anyone under the age of 18 is covered for a Standard Contract for all Criminal Code and other charges under Federal legislation (such as drug charges). They do not have to be financially eligible or meet Legal Aid BC Criminal coverage guidelines.

Youths under age 18 charged with Provincial offences, such as Motor Vehicle Act offences, offences under the Schools Act, etc., must be financially eligible and the case must meet criminal coverage guidelines.

Over age 18, facing Youth Criminal Justice Act charges

Applicants over the age of 18 who face Youth Criminal Justice Act charges are covered under our Youth Coverage guidelines until the end of the case.

Exception

Youths who are temporary or permanent wards of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) are not eligible for legal aid representation. In such cases, MCFD will arrange for counsel through the Ministry of Attorney General.

Family coverage

General

To qualify for legal aid representation, an applicant must:

- be financially eligible, and
- have a Family law problem covered by the Family Coverage guidelines who:
 - need an initial, or a change to the current, guardianship or parenting arrangement order if there is a risk of harm or violence to the client or their child or children;
 - have guardianship/custody of a child/children who have been unlawfully held by the access parent/party;
 - > have been permanently or repeatedly denied contact or parenting time with a child;
 - need a Family law protection order or other legal assistance to protect themselves or their children from harm or violence;
 - need an order to prevent the other parent from permanently relocating their child or children out of the Province. The threat must be real and imminent, and involve a permanent change of residence;
 - > is a respondent in a maintenance enforcement committal proceeding; or
- be eligible for coverage provided through the Exception Review process (see "Exception Reviews Guidelines" on pages 10/11 at the end of this document), or
- be eligible for Limited Representation.

Exception

Relocation within the province:

When the risk of relocation is within the province but is a significant distance from the applicant's home and/or would significantly impact one party's ability to have parenting time/access to their child(ren), the file can be sent for an Exception Review.

Current as of June, 2021

Who is covered?

When the legal issue involves children, an applicant must be:

- ✤ a parent,
- a member of the children's immediate or extended family,
- * a relative or individual who has lived with the children in a parental or custodial relationship, or
- ✤ a member of the community who has a cultural or traditional responsibility towards the children.

An applicant, with or without children, may be eligible for legal aid if their physical safety is at risk.

An applicant who's in jail may qualify for legal representation. Application would be sent for an Exception Review.

An applicant does not have to permanently reside in BC or hold Canadian citizenship to qualify for legal aid representation.

Exception

Youth who are temporary or permanent wards of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) are not eligible for legal aid representation. In such cases, MCFD will arrange for counsel through the Ministry of Attorney General.

Limited Representation Contracts

A client may be eligible for a Limited Representation contract when they don't meet the Coverage guidelines for a full representation (Family Standard) contract. They do not necessarily face a risk of harm or violence, or face a risk to the parent/child bond, and have some ability to self-represent. These contracts are intended to provide clients with the assistance necessary to prepare for mediation, negotiate a settlement or represent themselves.

A Limited Representation contract:

- covers any Family law issue except:
 - > Divorce (if it is the only issue);
 - Child Support (initial application and variations) if the recipient is on social assistance or the other party's income is under \$14,000; or
 - Spousal Support (initial application and variations) if the recipient is on social assistance or the other party's income is under \$20,000; or
 - > Adoption.
- offers 8 hours of general preparation time to prepare court applications, provide legal advice, mediation support, and/or legal research and analysis; prepare and review documents; negotiate settlements including separation agreements;
- offers 3 hours to allow the lawyer to attend Provincial or Supreme court for case conferences or for brief uncontested hearings or speaking to Consent Orders, but not contested hearings or trials;
- is not eligible for Extended Family Services;
- is not eligible for Travel authorization (the lawyer must be local or willing to provide services remotely); and
- is not eligible for changes of counsel other than in exceptional circumstances (in such cases, a request for a change of counsel assessment is sent to the Provincial Supervisors).

CFCSA

General

To qualify for legal representation, an applicant must:

- be financially eligible; and
- have a CFCSA problem covered by the CFCSA coverage guidelines.

An applicant must be:

- ✤ a parent, or
- a party to the proceeding who is a:
 - member of the children's immediate family,
 - > relative or individual who has lived with the children in a parent or custodial relationship, or
 - > member of the community who has a cultural or traditional responsibility towards the children.

Where an applicant is financially eligible and his or her children have been removed or are at risk of being removed, coverage is provided.

Where the child isn't born yet and there is a risk of removal at birth, coverage is provided.

Where the CFCSA director has filed an application to obtain a Continuing Custody Order (CCO), coverage is provided.

Where the client is the applicant or respondent to an application to cancel a CCO, or an applicant wanting to obtain access to his or her children after a CCO, coverage is discretionary.

Where the CFCSA Director has filed an application to permanently transfer custody of a child, who's in the <u>temporary care</u> or custody of a person other than the child's parent or MCFD, to a person other than the child's parent(s), coverage is provided.

Where the CFCSA Director has filed an application to permanently transfer custody of a child who's in the <u>continuing care (CCO)</u> of MCFD to a person other than the child's parent(s), and the director's application puts the parental relationship with the child at risk, coverage is discretionary.

An applicant does not have to permanently reside in BC or hold Canadian citizenship to qualify for legal representation.

<u>NOTE</u>: An applicant who's in jail and who is a parent or a party to the proceeding qualifies for legal representation, whether or not they're served with notice of the CFCSA proceeding.

Exception

Youth who are temporary or permanent wards of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) are not eligible for legal aid representation. In such cases, MCFD will arrange for counsel through the Ministry of Attorney General.

Third party (non-parent) applicant who is not a party to the proceeding

Current as of June, 2021

An applicant may be covered if:

- they're:
 - > the child's relative (such as sibling, grandparent, step-grandparent, aunt, uncle), or

> a member of the child's community who has a cultural or traditional responsibility towards the child. AND:

they want to become a non-custodial or custodial caregiver for a child who is at risk of removal, has been removed, or is in the care MCFD.

An applicant is not covered if:

- there is a final CFCSA order regarding the child (there can be ongoing court proceedings, but no Continuing Custody Order or Permanent Transfer of Custody Order under s.54.01 or 54.1), or
- they only want access to a child who's in the care of MCFD.

If an applicant satisfies the guidelines above, the application is sent for an Exception Review.

<u>NOTE</u>: The decision to approve a representation contract for a Third Party applicant who is not a party to the proceeding is a discretionary decision made by the Manager, Family Law Services or their delegate.

<u>NOTE</u>: Clients making third party applications do not get sent to the Parents Legal Centres (PLC). If approved, the Intake staff issue the contract to Legal Aid BC's Tariff Bar.

Independent legal advice for a child or third party who may be receiving permanent custody of a child

An applicant isn't covered for independent legal advice for a child, or a third party who may be receiving permanent custody of a child <u>with the consent</u> of the Director of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Instead, MCFD has contracted with Legal Aid BC to provide an applicant with a lawyer's services. Legal Aid BC has a province-wide roster of lawyers who provide independent legal advice to:

- children over 12 who are:
 - > the subject of proposed consent orders, or
 - wards of MCFD, and are
 - consenting to adoption, or
 - being permanently transferred to the custody of a person who isn't their parent.
- OR

* third parties who may be receiving permanent custody of a child with MCFD's consent.

The applicant must contact the child's social worker, who will arrange an appointment with a lawyer from the Legal Aid BC roster and provide that lawyer with a billing form.

<u>NOTE:</u> If a client does not qualify financially for legal aid they may be able to go to court and make a "JG" application. Before a client can apply for a "JG" application the client must apply for legal aid. They must be refused by the Legal Aid BC Intake worker, then they must ask, in writing, for that decision to be reviewed. If the review is also denied, the client will be sent a letter along with our booklet "If You Can't Get Legal Aid for Your Child Protection Case" or a link to the booklet, which explains how to apply to the courts for a court-appointed lawyer to assist them with their matter.

Choice of Indigenous Counsel for Indigenous Clients with Family or CFCSA Cases (Pilot Project)

If an Indigenous client with a Family or CFCSA case requests Indigenous counsel and no local Indigenous counsel is available, Legal Aid BC will try to find non-local Indigenous counsel who is available to accept the contract, and will pay this lawyer Travel costs.

Parents Legal Centres

A Parents Legal Centre (PLC) provides advice and limited representation services to parents facing child protection issues to support early, collaborative resolution outside of contested hearings. Legal Aid BC has 10 PLC's around the Province - in Campbell River, Duncan, Kamloops, Prince George, Smithers/Hazelton, Surrey, Terrace, Vancouver (at the Provincial Courthouse at Robson Square), Victoria, and Williams Lake. Each location, other than Surrey and Vancouver, also has other geographical locations that they service.

If a client:

- is a parent, or a party to the proceeding with whom the child resides and who stands in place of the child's parent or guardian, and
- has a child protection matter that is in or would be heard in Provincial Court in one of the cities the PLCs are located in, or in one of the geographical locations they cover, and
- meets the Financial Eligibility guidelines for a CFCSA Representation Contract.

Then the PLC will provide:

- information and advice on options for resolving child protection issues out-of-court;
- legal advice and representation, where appropriate, at collaborative processes such as mediation and Family case planning conferences;
- information and advice on court processes;
- legal advice and representation at uncontested hearings; and
- referrals to other services, including online resources and other public agencies.

All eligible applicants will be referred to the PLC instead of receiving a CFCSA representation contract under the *CFCSA Tariff*. If the issues cannot be resolved collaboratively and the applicant meets Coverage and Financial Eligibility guidelines for a CFCSA representation contract, Legal Aid BC may appoint a lawyer to complete the case.

<u>NOTE</u>: Clients making Third Party applications do not get sent to the Parents Legal Centres (PLC). If approved, the Legal Aid BC Intake staff issue contracts to Legal Aid BC's Tariff Bar.

Immigration Coverage Guidelines (Only the Vancouver Legal Aid office deals with Immigration cases)

General

To qualify for legal aid representation, an applicant must:

- ✤ be financially eligible, and
- have an Immigration law problem covered by the Legal Aid BC Immigration Coverage guidelines.

An applicant is covered if he or she:

- ✤ is making a refugee claim in Canada, or
- faces an Immigration proceeding and it could result in deportation from Canada to a country where his or her life is in danger or if he or she has other compelling reasons for not returning to his or her country.

Legal Aid BC screens Immigration cases for merit to determine whether the applicant has a reasonable chance of being successful in his or her case.

Refugee claims

Contracts for refugee and protected persons claims made in Canada include:

- preparation of a Basis of Claim form, and
- preparation for and representation at Refugee hearings before the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) of the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Other immigration cases

The following types of cases will be referred to the Legal Aid BC Judicial Appeals Section at the Vancouver Regional Centre. The Judicial Appeals Section screens these cases for merit and issues contracts if they determine that the applicant has a reasonable chance of being successful in his or her case:

- an appeal of a Refugee claim refusal to the Refugee Appeal Division;
- admissibility hearings before the Immigration and Refugee Board Adjudication Division;
- judicial Review applications to the Federal Court of Canada, and appeals to the Federal Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court of Canada to review an order of the Immigration and Refugee Board or an immigration officer;
- applications to stay a removal from Canada made to the Federal Court of Canada;
- applications to reopen or reinstate proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board;
- Permanent Resident (Landed Immigrant) deportation appeals to the Immigration Appeal Division (IAD) of the Immigration and Refugee Board;
- Pre-Removal Risk Assessment (PPRA) submissions to Citizenship and Immigration Canada;
- Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) submissions to Citizenship and Immigration Canada;
- applications by people detained by Immigration who cannot access duty counsel;
- applications by spouses or partners with <u>conditional permanent residence</u> who are leaving the relationship before the end of the two-year conditional cohabitation period; and
- Sponsorship appeals to the Immigration Appeal Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board where the applicant is in Canada and faces a risk of removal.

Family LawLINE

The Family LawLINE is a telephone advice service that provides brief next-step help for people representing themselves, as well as provides options for resolving legal issues outside of court, and referrals to online resources and other agencies. Clients with a Family law or CFCSA issue can access this service through the Legal

Current as of June, 2021

Aid BC Provincial Call Centre, engage with a lawyer over the telephone, and share documents by email or fax. Lawyers work from their own offices across the Province and engage with clients through a free remote access telephone system.

The Family LawLINE will provide the following:

- Up to 6 hours of service for each current legal matter;
- Appointments so that one lawyer and client can work together throughout their legal matter;
- Interpreters if clients need services in languages other than English;
- Information and advice on court processes, both Provincial and Supreme Court;
- Information and advice on options for resolving legal issues out-of-court;
- Referrals to other services, including online resources and other public agencies;
- ✤ Assistance with preparing documents for court or other legal processes; and
- Coaching to help people who are representing themselves through all stages of court and other collaborative processes;
 - Coaching will help the client understand the law relevant to their particular case, make more effective court appearances, present evidence properly, prepare for negotiation and settlement, and use Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) tools.

To qualify for the Family LawLINE service, a client must:

- Qualify financially
- Have an eligible Family law issue
- Not have a lawyer already working for them

To access the Family LawLINE service:

To find out if a client is eligible for this service, they must call the Legal Aid BC Provincial Call Centre at 604-408-2172 (for Greater Vancouver) or toll free 1-866-577-2525 Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (Wednesday to 2:30 pm).

Expanded Family Duty Counsel (Victoria)

Expanded Family Duty Counsel at the Victoria Justice Access Centre (JAC) will provide up to six hours of service per legal matter, set appointments so that clients can work with the same lawyer throughout their legal matter, and introduce legal coaching to help clients represent themselves in court.

These services are in addition to regular Family Duty Counsel services (information and advice on Family law issues, court processes, and options for resolving legal issues outside of court; help with document preparation and preparation for court appearances; representation in court on brief uncontested issues; and referrals to online resources and other agencies).

Reciprocals

As of **September 4th 2018**, clients who wish to apply for legal aid Family/CFCSA services in another province may now apply to the corresponding province directly. This means that clients from other provinces may apply for services in BC directly and vice versa.

If a BC client is dealing with a matter in another province and they are unable to find contact information for that province they can contact the Legal Aid BC Provincial Call Centre at 1-866-577-2525 to get that information.

Each province will still have a Reciprocal Coordinator in case clients have trouble contacting the other provinces. Courtesy applications may be sent to the other provinces by the Reciprocal Coordinator in these cases. You may contact our Reciprocal Coordinator at <u>reciprocity@lss.bc.ca</u> to see if he can assist.

Exception Review Guidelines

Exception Review merit considerations for all cases:

The decision to approve a case on exception review is a discretionary decision made by a Provincial Supervisor, Legal Aid Applications, and is based on established guidelines, a merit test, and available budget.

Merit considerations include:

- the applicant's issue is significant;
- the outcome will benefit the applicant and/or his/her children if the case is successful;
- the applicant has a reasonable likelihood of success;
- a reasonable person of modest means would themselves pay to pursue the case;
- the applicant does not have other viable options, other than legal representation, to deal with the issue; and
- there is remaining LSS budget available to fund the case.

Family cases

An application dealing with a matter under the Family Law Act can be sent for an Exception Review if:

- the applicant has recently been denied extended family services (within the past year);
- the applicant has received prior contracts in relation to the same children or parties;
- the emergency services policy is unduly harsh in the particular circumstances of an applicant's case or the circumstances are unusual and complex;
- the applicant has a mental or physical disability and is unable to represent him or herself (there must be a significant barrier that will create an injustice if the applicant is not represented);
- a significant injustice can only be avoided by appointing counsel;
- the applicant is so traumatized by past abuse that he/she is unable to represent him/herself;
- there is references in court documents to sexual, physical, emotional abuse; or
- the applicant is the subject of litigation harassment.

Criminal cases

If a policy is unduly harsh in the particular circumstances of an applicant's case or the circumstances are unusual and complex.

If an applicant has been charged with spousal assault (summary or indictable offence) where:

- there is no risk of jail if convicted; and
- he or she has a contract for a Family or CFCSA issue that might be negatively affected by the spousal assault charge.

Discretionary Coverage

Criminal cases

If an applicant has a Trial or Preliminary Hearing set and is only marginally over the Financial Eligibility guidelines by up to \$200 on income or \$500 on assets, and it's a serious and complex case and there is available budget, the Intake worker can send the file for a Discretionary Coverage Review. However, if the case would be covered by a CERC because there's no Trial or Preliminary Hearing set yet, then the Intake worker would send a CERC to the client's lawyer instead of sending the matter for a Discretionary Coverage Review. If, after reviewing the file with the client, the lawyer feels the client should have a Standard Contract and go to Trial even though they are marginally over the Standard Criminal financial guidelines, they can send in a Conversion Request to the Provincial Supervisors, who will then determine if a Discretionary Coverage Review is appropriate. If so, the file will be forwarded to the Criminal Law Team for review.

Family cases

If an applicant is only marginally over the Financial Eligibility guidelines by up to \$200 on income or \$500 on assets, and the matter is serious and there is available budget, the Intake worker can send the file for a Discretionary Coverage Review.

Immigration and Appeal cases

If an applicant is only marginally over the Financial Eligibility guidelines by up to \$200 on income or \$500 on assets, and the matter is serious and there is available budget, the Intake worker can send the file for a Discretionary Coverage Review.

CFCSA and Parents Legal Centres

There is no Income Discretionary Coverage for CFCSA or Parents Legal Centre matters as the Financial Eligibility income guidelines for CFCSA and the Parents Legal Centres are already \$1,000 over our regular Financial Eligibility guidelines. There is Asset Discretionary Coverage for CFCSA files if the assets are up to \$500 over the Financial Eligibility guidelines for Assets. If a client is over the Financial Eligibility guidelines for CFCSA or the Parents Legal Centres, they are refused on the basis of financial eligibility and provided with a JG Application.

Denial of Legal Aid

If a client is denied legal aid they can request a review of the decision. They must submit a written request within 30 days of the date of the decision. They should state why they disagree with the refusal and explain why they believe they should get legal aid. They also need to include any documents that might support their request for a review.

The request for review can be sent to:

Provincial Supervisor, Legal Aid Applications Legal Aid BC Vancouver Regional Centre 400 – 510 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC V6C 3A8 Fax: 604-682-0787 Email: <u>provincialsupervisors@lss.bc.ca</u>

Legal Aid Print & Online Resources

Information and services to help navigate the legal system and solve legal issues

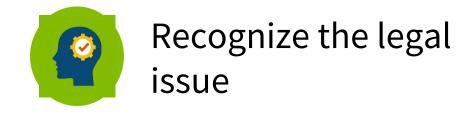


Outline

- Publications
- Websites
- Guided Pathways



How can you help people with legal information?





Find ways to stay out of court and resolve problems early



Find options for help

Publications

COVID-19: Legal Aid BC now takes	Overview Resources Client services	d the legal help y	/ou need.	
Free publications	Workshops & conferences		📒 Fea	tured publications
	Free publications	ree publications	Coping with Separation	Coping with Separation during COVID-19
। want to find a publication by s	Training videos	^		For spouses (married or living in a marriage-like relationship) who are dealing with the emotional aspects of separating. It describes the emotional
Aboriginal peoples Abuse & family violence Child protection/removal Crimes & offences	Immigrants & refugees Legal help & lawyers Legal system & courts Promotional materials		HAT IN THE REPORT OF THE REPOR	Safety in Relationships: Same-Gender Describes relationship abuse, dispels common myths about abuse involving LGBTQ2S folk, discusses why a person might stay with an abusive partner,
Debt	Staying out of court		ang a	Cafaty in Delationshine: Trans Eally

LEGALAID.BC.CA



Free publications

I want to find a publication by subject	~
I want to find a publication by language	~
I want to find a publication by title	~
I want to get a publication	^

To get a copy of a free Legal Aid BC publication

- Go to your local legal aid location, or
- Place an order with Crown Publications.

E Featured publications



Safety in Real Property in

Ballety, in: Reconstruction

Coping with Separation during COVID-19

For spouses (married or living in a marriage-like relationship) who are dealing with the emotional aspects of separating. It describes the emotional...

Safety in Relationships: Same-Gender

Describes relationship abuse, dispels common myths about abuse involving LGBTQ2S folk, discusses why a person might stay with an abusive partner,...

Safety in Relationships: Trans Folk

Describes relationship abuse, dispels common myths about abuse involving trans folk, discusses why a person might stay with an abusive partner,...

B

Publications Lists

- Availability list
- Readability list

Publications updates

- The Factum Blog
- Twitter

Still can't find what you're looking for?

Can't find what you're looking for? Clicklaw 🗹 has resources from organizations across BC.



Legal Aid Publication Readability

Level 1 — No legal knowledge is needed.

Publications are in clear language for people who don't know about the law

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Level 2 — Some legal knowledge
is helpful.
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Publications for people who are comfortable reading and may have some legal knowledge

Level 3 — Some legal knowledge is needed.

Publications for people who are familiar with legal concepts



Abuse and Family Violence

Level 1



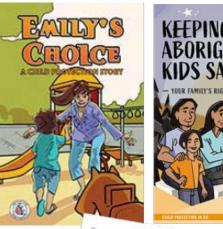
Level 2

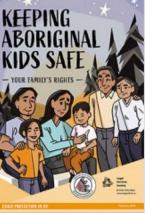




Child Protection

Level 1



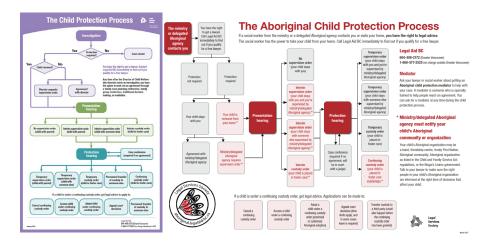


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Level 2



Level 3





Criminal Law

Level 1

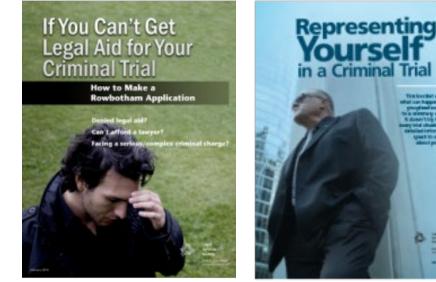


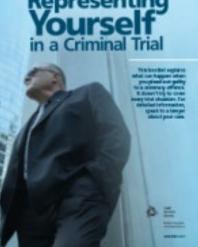
Speaking to the Judge Before You're Sentenced

\$ E.



Level 2

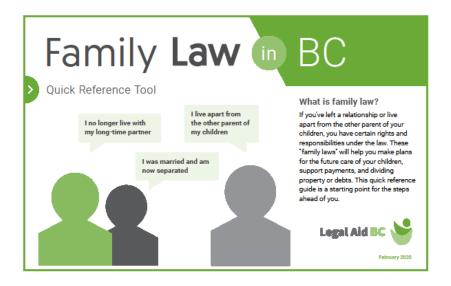






Family Law

Level 1





Now You're Talking! Illustrated conversations about family law issues - Poten states from the family Law is 80 website

Tomiylaw. Legal Add 10



Level 2



Coping with Separation





Indigenous & Reserve Law

Level 1





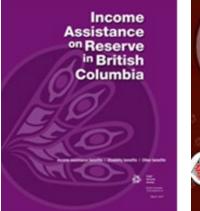
COND GLADUE RIGHTS STORY

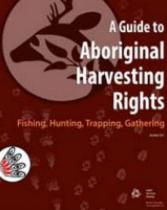




Where are First Nations Courts? How do Eget into First Nations Court?

Level 2





Gladue Submission Guide Eliable rights apply to all Abariginal peoples, living on reserve or off reserve.

4 E



FOUR WEBSITES

- legalaid.bc.ca/
- aboriginal.legalaid.bc.ca/
- family.legalaid.bc.ca/
- mylawbc.com/





Aboriginal Legal Aid in BC

nd out about your rights as an Aboriginal person in BC, and onnect with the people who can help you.



Family Law in BC

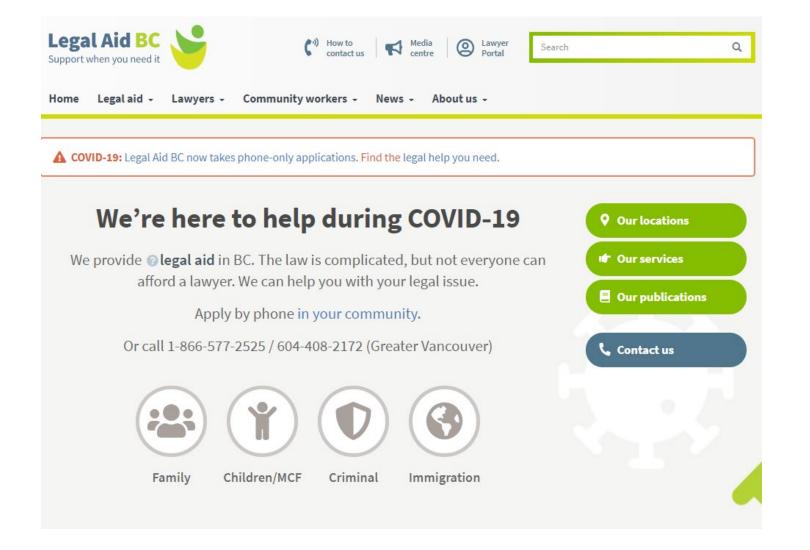
Find complete information about family law, use self-help guides, and get the court forms you need.



MyLawBC

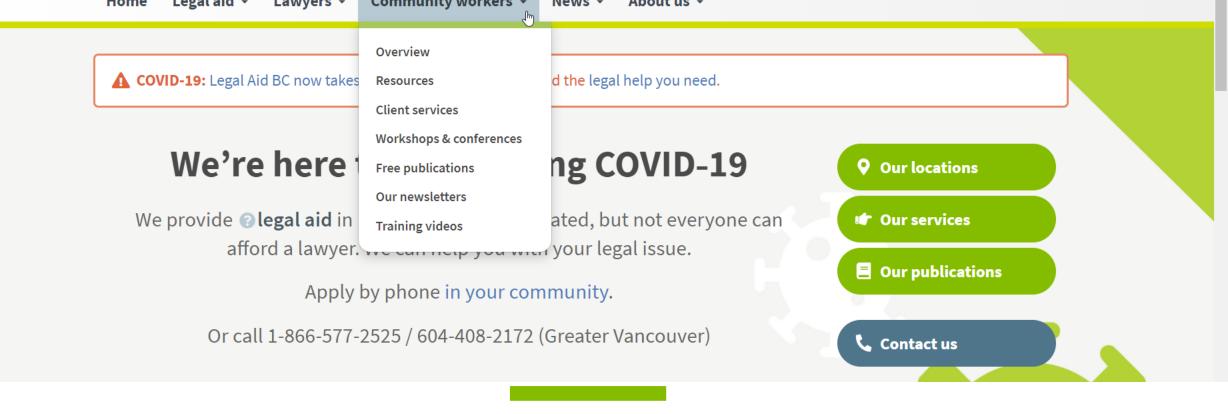
Quickly get a plan to help you resolve your legal problem.







legalaid.bc.ca/



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Financial Statements in Provincial Court and BCSC (Nov. 3, 2020)

[1:33:07] Detailed information about how to complete financial statements in both the Provincial Court and BC Supreme Court.



Self Care: Understanding the value of boundaries for advocates (Nov. 23, 2020)

[1:37:49] A webinar focused on the connection between boundaries and self care and burn-out prevention.



Kinship Care and associated benefits (Nov. 19, 2020)



Prepping for Social Security Tribunal (SST) (Nov. 19, 2020)

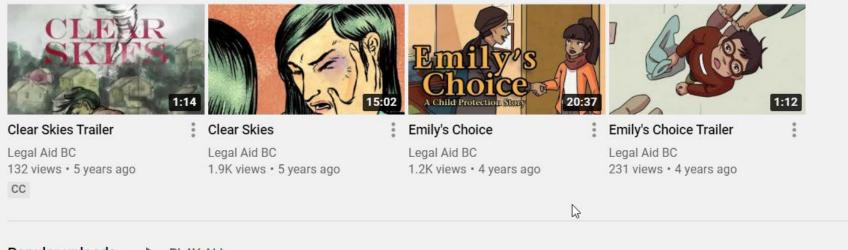


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HOME	VIDEOS	PLAYLISTS	CHANNELS	DISCUSSION	ABOUT	

Animation PLAY ALL



Popular uploads PLAY ALL



Legal Aid BC

https://www.youtube.com/user/LegalAidBC

Q



you can do.

Aboriginal.legalaid.bc.ca



LIVED EXPERIENCES

- Using lived experiences to educate
- Videos
- Graphic novels



Clear Skies - A family violence story

Marnie and her kids live with family violence. But with the support of her community, and by learning about her legal options, Marnie is able to leave an abusive relationship. *Clear Skies* is Marnie's story.







Anna, a young Aboriginal mother, tells how a Parents Legal Centre helped her to get her son back from ministry care. Find out more information about this video.



2

Child and family rights

Learn about your rights and what you can do to protect your children.

2

V

What do you need help with?





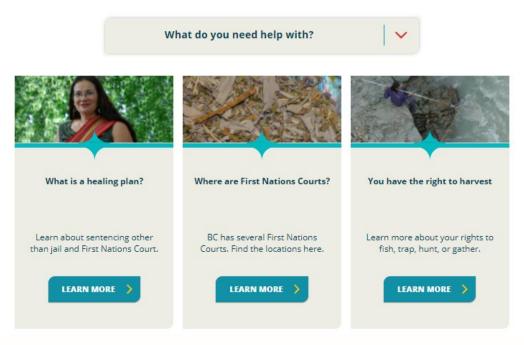


Home / Courts & criminal cases

2

Courts and criminal cases

Learn what you can do if you've been accused of a crime.



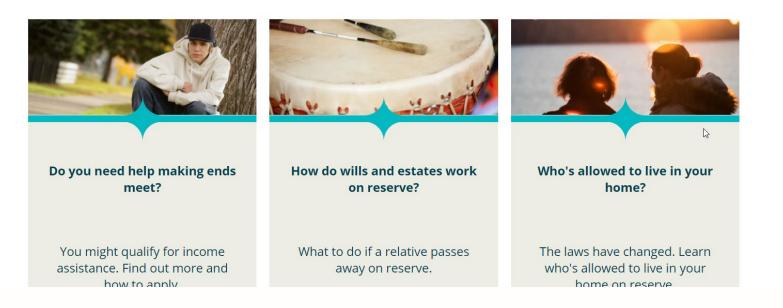
Legal Aid BC

Legal issues on reserve

Some laws are different if you live on reserve.

What do you need help with?









Familylaw.lss.bc.ca



FAMILY LAW IN BC

- Divorce
- Parenting
- Support and finances
- Abuse and family violence
- Using the court system
- Related legal issues





Separation & Divorce | Children | Finances & Support | Abuse & Family Violence | BC's Legal System

LSS Family Law

Welcome to Family Law in BC

Find the answers to your family law issue

Separation & Divorce

If you're ending a marriage or common-law relationship, we can help you figure out what to do. You don't always have to go to court. Our step-by-step guides can help.



🛞 Children

Your child's wellbeing is what matters most. We can help you figure out parenting time and guardianship after separation or divorce. Has a social worker contacted you about your children? Learn your rights.





It's important that your family stays financially secure after you've separated. Find out more about spousal or child support, and dividing property and debt.

Abuse & Family Violence

Abuse is never okay. If your partner's actions make you feel unsafe or controlled, you can get help.





Confused by the BC legal system? We can help you understand the different courts, how to apply for or respond to a court order, and what forms you'll need.



Mumiaration



GUIDES

- Step-by-step guides to • complex legal processes
- Help people save time 0 and money





4

Separation & Divorce Thinking about leaving?

Going through separation

Getting a divorce

How do you get a divorce if your home country doesn't recognize your same-sex marriage? Getting a copy of your marriage certificate Common questions about marriages, divorces, and annulments inside and outside Canada SHELL Do your own uncontested divorce Sole application for an uncontested divorce Joint application for an

uncontested divorce Making mediation happen in a family law case in Supreme Court SHELL What is the Online Divorce Assistant? SHELL

Common-law couples

🕞 Print 🛛 💭 Forms 🛛 🔓 Glossary 🕅 Email Joint application for an uncontested divorce

3

Fill out two Fill out the Introduction Gather File your next forms agreement. forms your documents if you have one

Swear or Apply for affirm the divorce affidavit(s)

5

Final steps

Quick Links

Assistant

6

Step 1: Gather your documents

2

You'll need

. The money to order your marriage certificate, if you need to • A translator to translate it into English, if you need to . A copy of your separation agreement or court order(s) · Your change of name certificate, if required

Your marriage certificate

1

To get a divorce, you need an original marriage certificate or registration of marriage. The court won't accept the certificate you received from the church or other venue where you got married.

If you got married:

• in BC, see Marriage Certificates 🗹 to find out what BC marriage certificates look like, and how to order one from the BC government's Vital Statistics Agency

- · in another province, contact the office equivalent to Vital Statistics in that province (see Vital Statistics contacts 🗹)
- · in another country, contact the office responsible for marriage records in the country where you were married

Ask to have your original marriage certificate or a certified copy sent to you. There is usually a fee for this service. In BC, it costs \$27 to order your marriage certificate from the Vital Statistics Agency 🗹

If you can't get a copy of your marriage certificate

If your marriage certificate isn't in English

+

+

Your separation agreement or court order

You need your separation agreement or Provincial Court order(s) to show what you've agreed to or what the court has already ordered about parenting, child support, or spousal support.

You'll file your agreement with the Supreme Court to open a family law case.

To make a separation agreement, contact a family justice counsellor mediator, or family law lawyer for help. You can also use our step-bystep guide Write your own separation agreement.



· Go to the Online Divorce

Whatever you feel as you work through this guide is normal and okay.



Refreshed MyLawBC Website Walkthrough







About us 🚯

Get free help for your legal issue.

MyLawBC.com



WHAT IT CAN **HELP WITH**

- Separation and divorce
- Foreclosure
- Abusive relationships •
- Making a will



Legal Aid BC 🍟

Get free help for your legal issue.

/lake an action plan 📀	Get free mediation 🎭
Separation and divorce	Child support
Abuse and family violence	Parenting arrangements
Missed mortgage payments	Negotiate with your spouse 🤌
Wills and planning for your future care	Separation agreements

Legal issues V

Log in 🌖

Donate 🗳



My problem. My solution.

MAKE AN ACTION PLAN

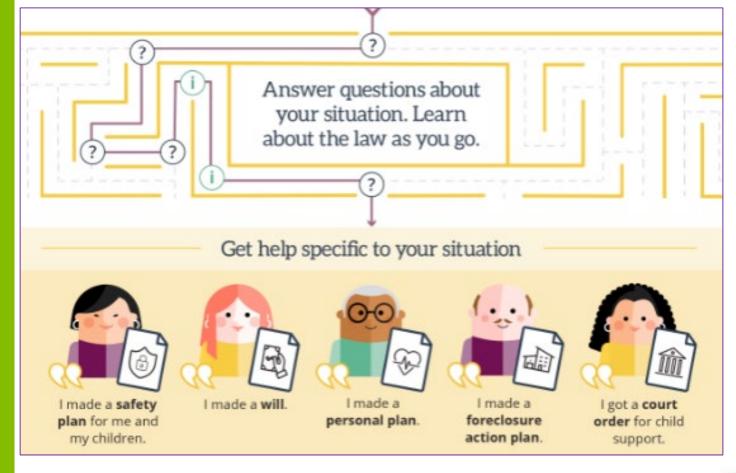
Separation and divorce Abuse and family violence FIND OUT MORE

Publications About us

About us 🕧

GUIDED PATHWAYS

- Answer questions about your situation
- Get a step-by-step plan to take action
- Only the info you need when you need it





ACTION PLANS

- Short actionable steps to resolve the issue
- Background info and referrals
- Downloadable as PDFs

Find out if you can keep your home

Summary	Read first	Do now	Do later	Get more help	
---------	------------	--------	----------	---------------	--

Your situation

Based on your answers

Legal Aid BC 🐸

Financial hardship because of COVID-19

If you've lost your job or lost income because of the COVID-19 pandemic, you might be eligible to defer (postpone) your mortgage payment. Currently, there's no mandatory federal guidelines, so you need to contact your lender for information specific to them.

It's important that you don't stop making mortgage payments before you confirm with your lender that you qualify. Deferring your payments is a short term emergency measure only. If you are eligible to defer your mortgage, you will have to pay interest on your deferred payments.

Contact your lender

If you've lost income due to COVID-19 and you're going to miss mortgage payments, your lender will work with you. Go to their website to find out what they're offering, and how you can contact them either by phone or in person.

Prepare your information

Get all your financial information ready before talking to your lender. You may have to prove that your income has dropped, if you've been temporarily laid off, or lost your job due to COVID-19.

Stay up to date

The situation is changing quickly! As well as regularly checking your lender's websites, here are some resources:

Download your plan (PDF)

Help us out

Navigating the legal system is hard; we're happy to make that process easier. Help us improve MyLawBC.

🧡 Donate 🗹

📢 Give us your feedback

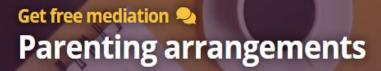
Guided pathways available

- Make a separation plan
- Get family orders
- I've been served with a court document
- Make a safety plan
- Find out if you can keep your home
- Make a will
- Plan for the future



ODR SERVICES

- Online dispute resolution
- Issues around divorce and separation
- Create legal agreements
- Mediation
- Free



Returning users log in here 🌒

Legal Aid BC 🍟

LAW

Is the Family Resolution Centre for you? (10 min)

Create your account in the Family Resolution Centre

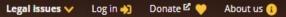
Is your safety at risk? If you're worried, go through our <u>Abuse</u> and family violence pathway for resources to help you. Use the **Family Resolution Centre** to make parenting arrangements setting out how you and the other parent will raise your children after you separate. This service is for you if one of you and the children live in BC.

User guide

How to add your parenting plan to a separation agreement

Professionals who can help

Legal Ald D



FAMILY RESOLUTION CENTRE

- Platform for creating parenting plans
- Work together for what's best for your children
- Get a free mediator to help

LAW Legal Aid BC

Legal issues 🗸 🛛 Log in 🌖 🛛 Donate 🗹 💛 🛛 About us 🤅

Get free mediation **Q** Parenting arrangements

Returning users log in here 🌒

Is the Family Resolution Centre for you? (10 min)

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User guide

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Professionals who can help



FREE MEDIATION

- Uses the Family Resolution Centre platform
- Up to 5 hours of free mediation
- Qualified under the Family Law Act

Get free mediation **Set free mediation Set free mediation**

Returning users log in here 🌒

Legal Aid BC 🍟

LAW

Is the Family Resolution Centre for you? (10 min)

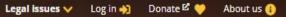
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User guide

How to add your parenting plan to a separation agreement

Professionals who can help





Why make the Family Resolution Centre?

- Parenting issues are some of the hardest to resolve
- Help people who can't afford these services
- Mediation helps preserve relationships
- Reduce stress for users



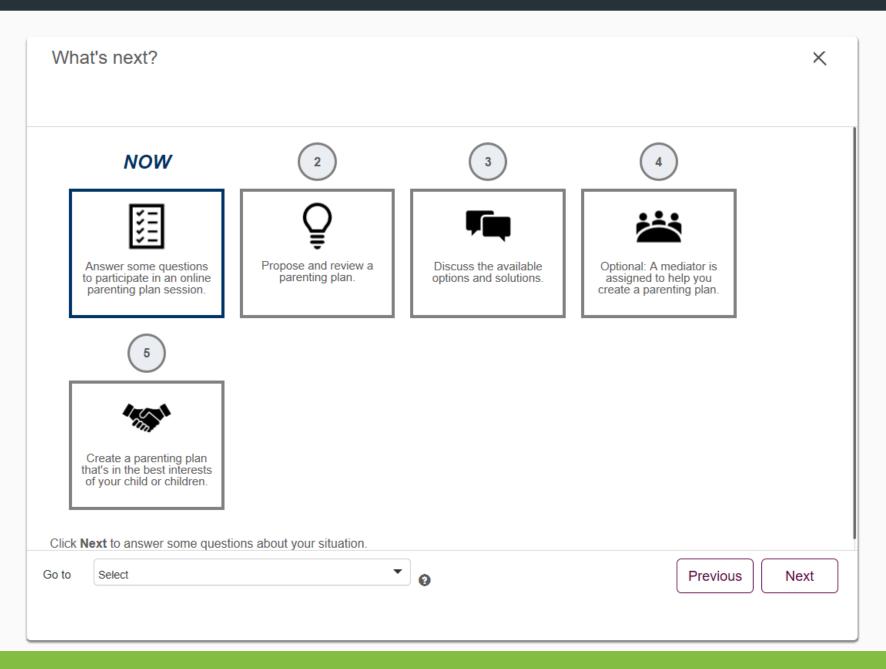
Who can use the Family Resolution Centre?

- Only deals with parenting issues
 - Doesn't include child support (yet)
- No financial eligibility requirements
- Screening for appropriateness for online mediation

Legal Aid BC

• No cases with family violence

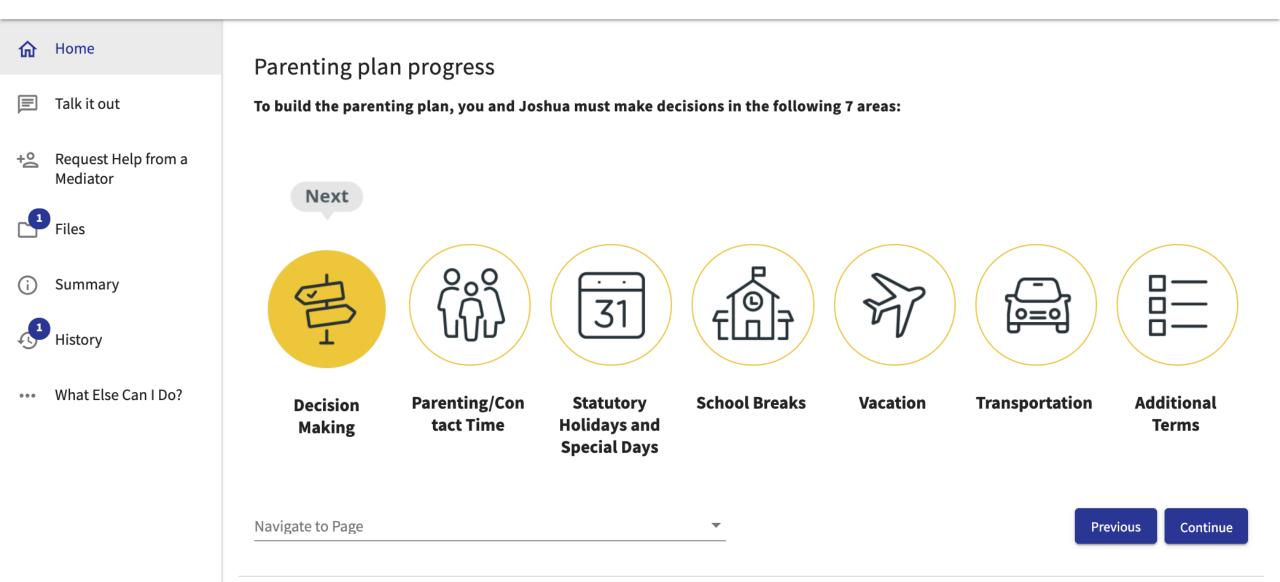








Session #21FAM00151







Session #21FAM00151

🟠 Home	Decision making: Choose an option
🗐 Talk it out	Parenting responsibilities include making decisions about education, culture, religion, medical treatment, and sharing and receiving information.
+ <u></u> Request Help from a Mediator	There is a presumption that the parenting responsibilities will be shared equally unless stated otherwise. As well as the decision-making arrangement you choose, your parenting plan will state the following about decisions:
Files	Day-to-day decisions During their parenting time, that guardian (on-duty parent) can make day-to-day decisions about the child or children, including decisions about things like homework, bedtime, and chores.
i Summary	Emergency decisions In a health emergency, the guardian who is having parenting time with the child or children can make the decision about healthcare. If a parent or guardian makes emergency health decisions, they must immediately contact the other parent or guardian.
History	Who will make decisions about the children? *
••• What Else Can I Do?	O Amy and Joshua are both the guardians of the child or children and will share or split decision making. Amy and Joshua will share parenting as set out in this parenting plan.
	O Amy and Joshua are both the guardians of the child or children. Amy will make all the decisions and Joshua will be fully consulted. Amy and Joshua will share parenting as set out in this parenting plan.
	O Amy and Joshua are both the guardians of the child or children. Joshua will make all the decisions and Amy will be fully consulted. Amy and

Joshua will share parenting as set out in this parenting plan.





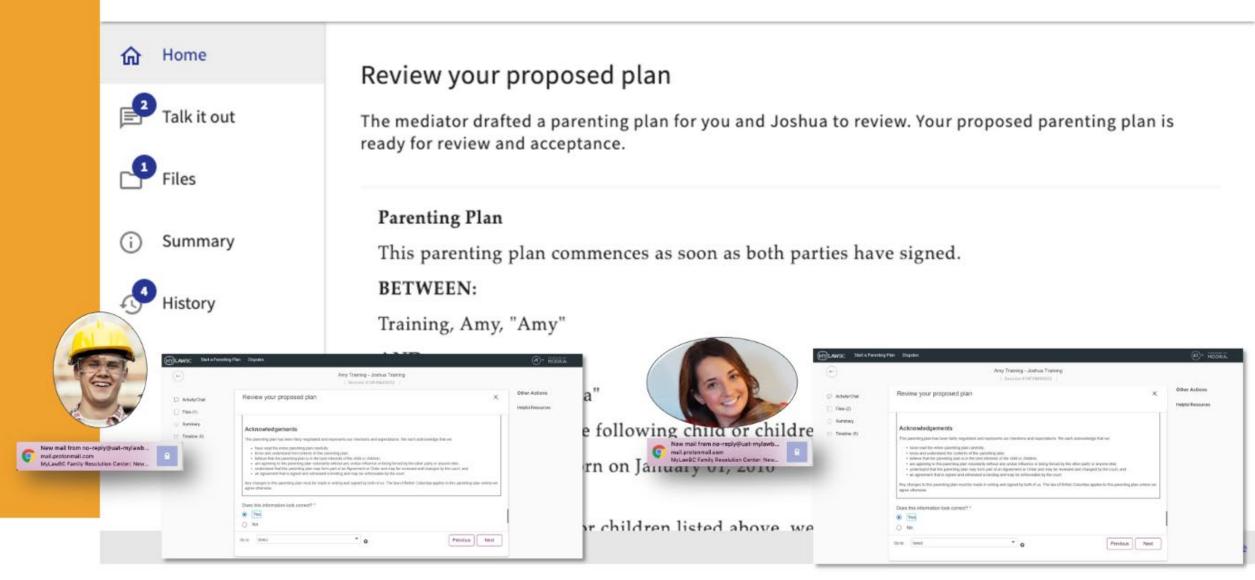
Session #21FAM00033

命	Chat with everyone	Chat with everyone Disable
F	Amy / Mediator	Amy Training (Parent A) Added a file: <u>Amy Training Drivers license.jpg</u>
2	Joshua / Mediator	Joshua Training (Parent B)
í		Added a file: <u>Amy Training Drivers license.jpg</u> 11:52:41 Joshua Training (Parent B)
.€		Hi Amy, looks like we can't agree on the schedule. I've asked for a mediator to help us.
		11:53:46 Natasha Neutral
		Hi Amy and Josh, hoping we can work together on your issue.
		03:23:32
		Type a message here.





Session #21FAM00033



THANK YOU

adam.fraser@legalaid.bc.ca



Legal Aid BC Updates & Resources

- Legal Aid BC current publication list https://lss.bc.ca/publications
- Form to request a new Customer Account to order multiple copies of <u>free</u> publications: <u>https://lss.bc.ca/publications/signup.php</u>

