



Legal Aid BC

Services and free
resources

Recorded on May 18, 2022



[CLICK HERE](#)
[TO WATCH THE WEBINAR](#)



Working With Legal Aid BC Intake



Deneen, Provincial Supervisors, Legal Aid Applications

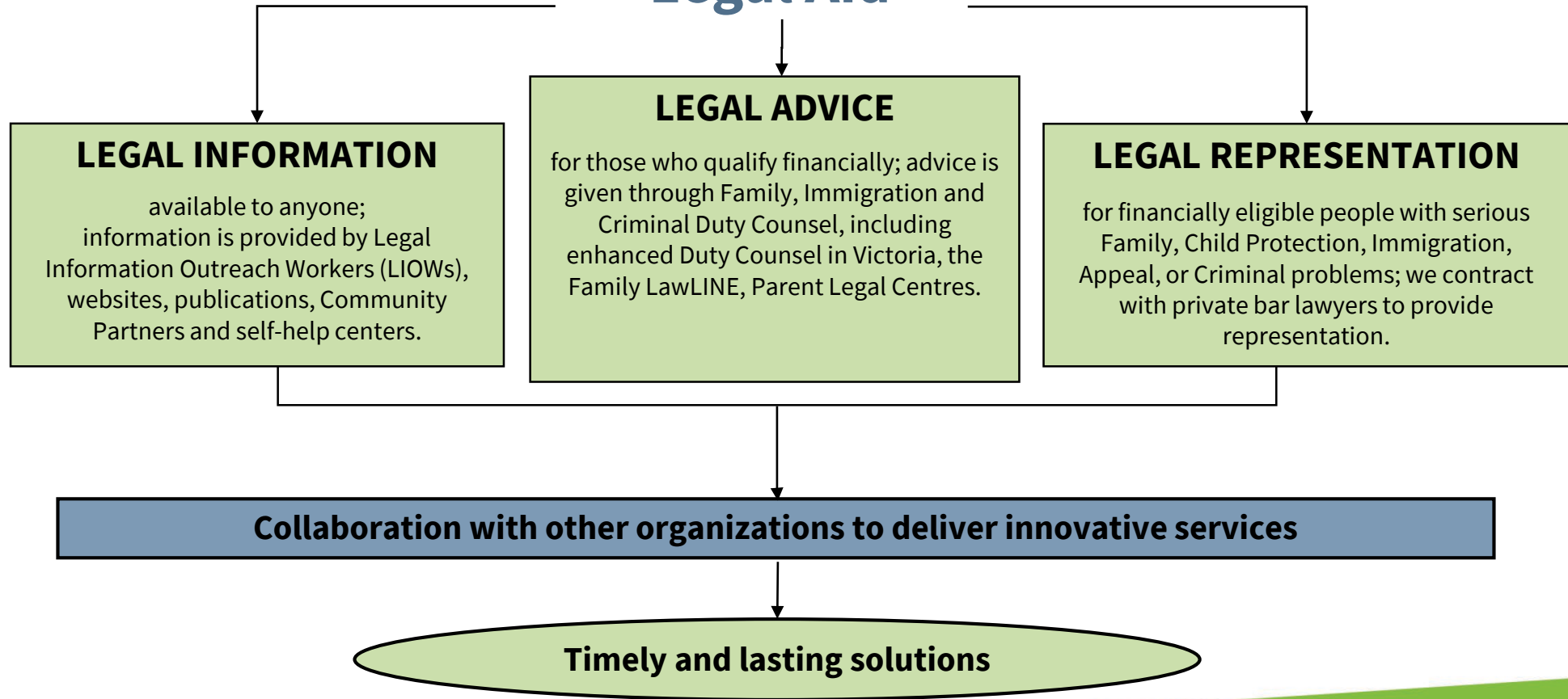
May, 2022

Legal Aid BC
Support when you need it



Services Overview

Legal Aid



Community Partners

We have 26 community partners providing services in 30 communities around the province.

Clients can:

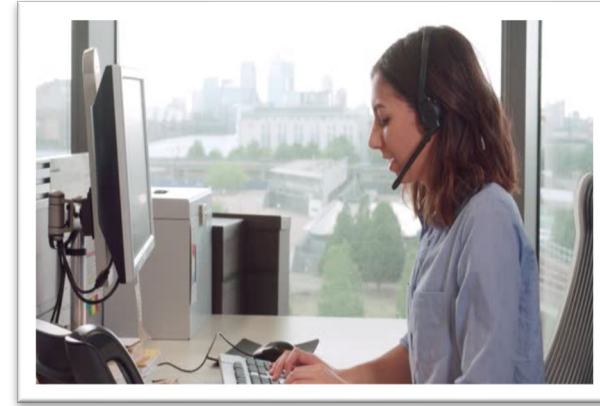
- get free legal information;
- call Legal Aid;
- find nearest Legal Aid office;
- get legal help online; and
- connect with people who can help.



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, Salmon Arm, Vernon
Prince George	Prince George, Fort Nelson, Fort St. James, Kwadacha, Mackenzie, McBride, Quesnel, Valemount, Vanderhoof
Smithers/Hazelton	Smithers, Hazelton, Burns Lake, Houston
Surrey	Surrey, Abbotsford
Terrace	Terrace, Dease Lake, Kitimat, New Aiyansh, Prince Rupert, Stewart
Vancouver	Vancouver
Victoria	Victoria, Colwood
Williams Lake	Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, Anahim Lake

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 26 **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).

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



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

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.
- Exceptions to the “likelihood of jail” rule.
- **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.

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. Similar to Criminal CERC cases, 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

Legal Aid BC



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

Legal Aid BC



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

Legal Aid BC



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: provincialsupervisors@legalaid.bc.ca



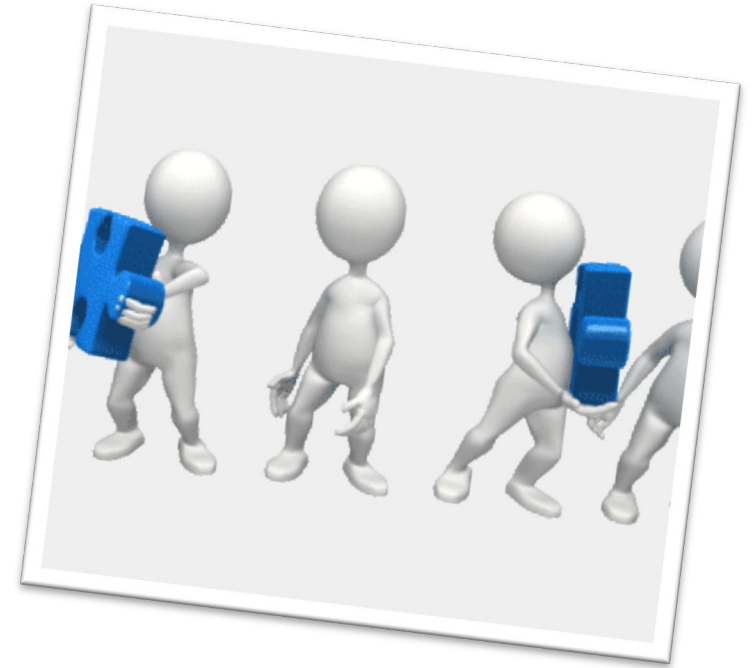
Legal Aid BC



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



Legal Aid BC



Overview of Legal Aid BC Coverage Guidelines

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) or
- ❖ falls within one of our "Additional grounds for coverage" below.

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.

Overview of Legal Aid BC Coverage Guidelines

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.

NOTE: 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/Disclosure,
- ❖ 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.

NOTE: 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.

NOTE: 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.

Overview of Legal Aid BC Coverage Guidelines

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.

Overview of Legal Aid BC Coverage Guidelines

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.

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;

Overview of Legal Aid BC Coverage Guidelines

- ❖ 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 temporary care 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 continuing care (CCO) 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.

NOTE: 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

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.

NOTE: 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.

NOTE: 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 with the consent 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.

NOTE: 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,

Overview of Legal Aid BC Coverage Guidelines

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 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.

NOTE: 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 [conditional permanent residence](#) 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 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

BC residents who wish to apply for legal aid Family/CFCSA services in another province may now apply to the corresponding province directly. This also means that clients from other provinces may apply for services in BC directly..

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 has 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 reciprocity@lss.bc.ca to see if they 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.

Overview of Legal Aid BC Coverage Guidelines

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: provincialsupervisors@lss.bc.ca

Parents Legal Centre

May 18, 2022

Ram Sidhu

PLC Coordinator

Legal Aid BC

Support when you need it



Facts and Figures:



- Indigenous people make up 6% of BC's population
- About 63% of children in care are of Indigenous ancestry
- 41% of PLC's Clients self-identify as



What is the PLC?



- Legal clinic for parents/caregivers with child protection matters
- Provide legal representation and wrap-around support to parents.
- Use of an advocate who will assist client throughout child protection matter
- Focus on early intervention/addressing potential safety concerns before matters escalates, and seek to achieve an alternative solution that maintains families as much as possible



Rationale for the PLC



- To engage with parents and provide support/advocacy at the beginning stages of their involvement with MCFD or DAA
- To provide support/advocacy before a matter escalates, and attempt to achieve a solution that keeps a family together and addresses the child protection concerns
- Client centered team support for client. We support the client in addressing their child protection concerns and provide legal representation
- Providing culturally sensitive and trauma informed services



PLC Team



Lawyer

- Provides legal representation and advocacy
- Attends court, mediations, and collaborative meetings
- Easily available to provide legal advice to client
- Works with ACLW/Advocate to identify client's needs and develop plan to address the CP concerns
- Provides outreach in the community

ACLW/Advocate

- Supports the client in addressing CP concerns
- Attends meetings with client
- Stays in regular touch with clients
- Works with Lawyer about progress, setbacks, developments
- Maintains knowledge of resources clients might benefit from
- Develops relationship with community resources

Administrative Assistant

- Manages office administration, intake, phone calls, and data collection



Who Qualifies for the PLC?

Requirements:

- Parent or “person who stands in in place of a parent”
- Must have a child protection concern or file
- File must fall within the Provincial Court catchment of the PLC
- Applicant falls within the financial criteria for LABC, or is eligible for discretionary coverage from PLC

Files that may not be appropriate:

- Trial dates have been booked and is “imminent”
- Client has serious and/or unresolved criminal allegations against them
- Client already has a lawyer

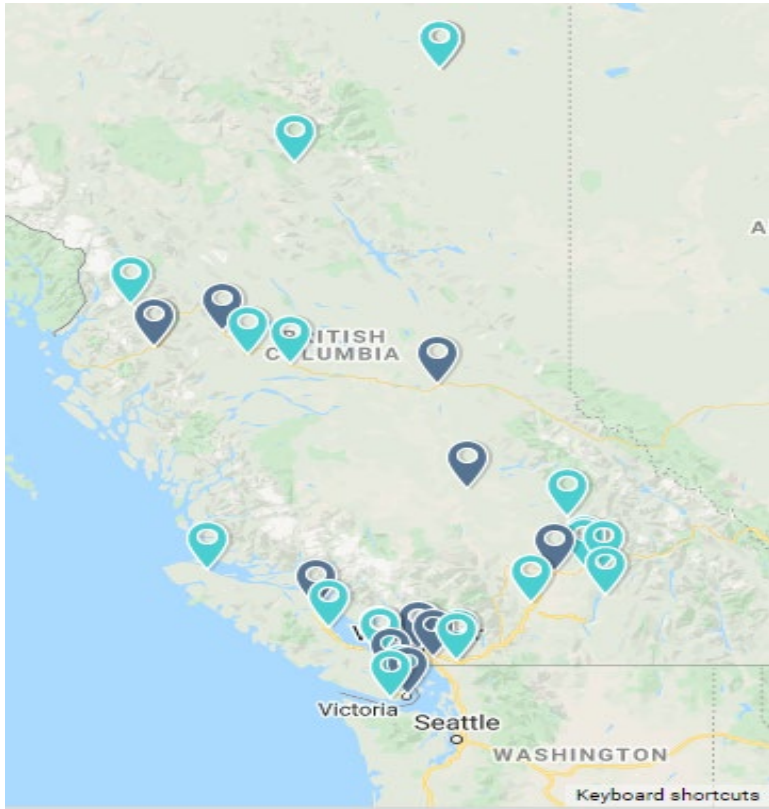


How to Support Clients with CFCSA files

- Refer clients to PLC or Legal Aid BC upon first potential contact with a social worker
- Make sure client has support/advocate at meetings to take notes or help client communicate productively with the social worker
- Encourage client to remain in contact with social worker and attend visits/meetings on time
- If client is Indigenous, make sure client has access to support and involvement from their community
- Encourage parent to be proactive about any child protection concerns and/or explore family, friends, or community if child cannot live with client on temporary basis



Locations



- 10 PLC Locations
Duncan, Victoria, Campbell River, Kamloops, Smithers, Williams Lake, Prince George, Terrace, Surrey and Vancouver
- 26 Network Locations across the Province

https://legalaid.bc.ca/legal_aid/legalAidLocations

Map



Legal Aid Print Resources

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

Patricia Lim, Publications Development
Coordinator

Legal Aid BC
Support when you need it



Outline

- Readability/legal knowledge levels
- How to order publications
- Overview of publications

FREE
Publications

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

Level 2 — Some legal knowledge is helpful.

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



Free publications

I want to find a publication by

2SLGBTQ+

Aboriginal peoples

Abuse & family violence

Child protection/removal

Crimes & offences

Debt

Families & children

Overview

Resources

Client services

Workshops & conferences

Free publications

Our newsletters

Training videos

Promotional materials

Refugees & immigrants

Staying out of court

Welfare & benefits

Wills, estates & life planning



Free publications



Featured publications



Family Law in BC: Quick Reference Tool

This set of postcards introduces the reader to the basics of family law. Each card covers one legal aspect of separation, such as: which laws apply,...



Gladue Submission Guide

Plain language guide for Indigenous peoples, lawyers, and Native courtworkers about how to prepare an oral or written Gladue submission for a bail,...



Living Together or Living Apart

Common-Law Relationships, Marriage, Separation, and



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](#).



legalaid.bc.ca/read

Featured publications



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,...

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 BC



How to order multiple copies of LABC publications for **free**



legalaids.bc.ca/publications/signup



604-601-6000



distribution@legalaids.bc.ca

Customer account signup

Complete the Application Form. Once we've processed your application, we'll email your *customer ID*.

Organization Name*

Contact Person*

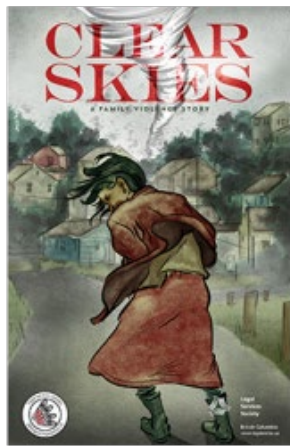
Title*

Legal Aid BC



Abuse and Family Violence

Level 1



multilingual

Level 2



multilingual

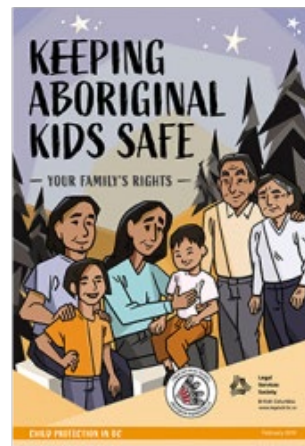
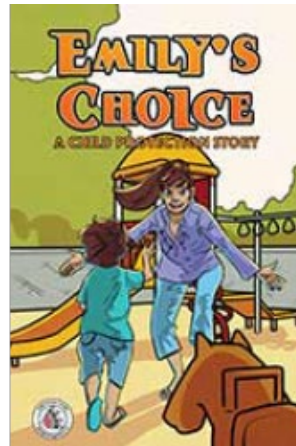


multilingual



Child Protection

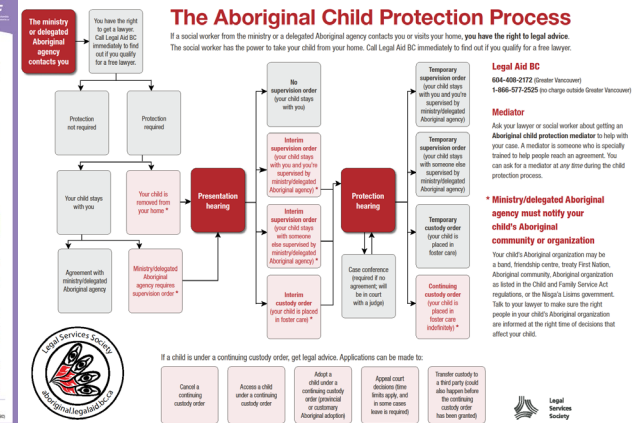
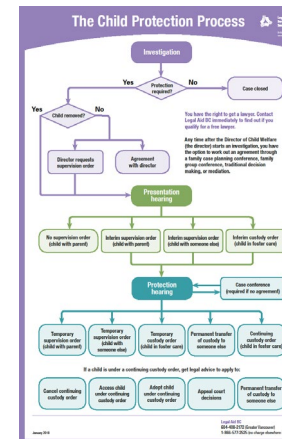
Level 1



Level 2



Level 3



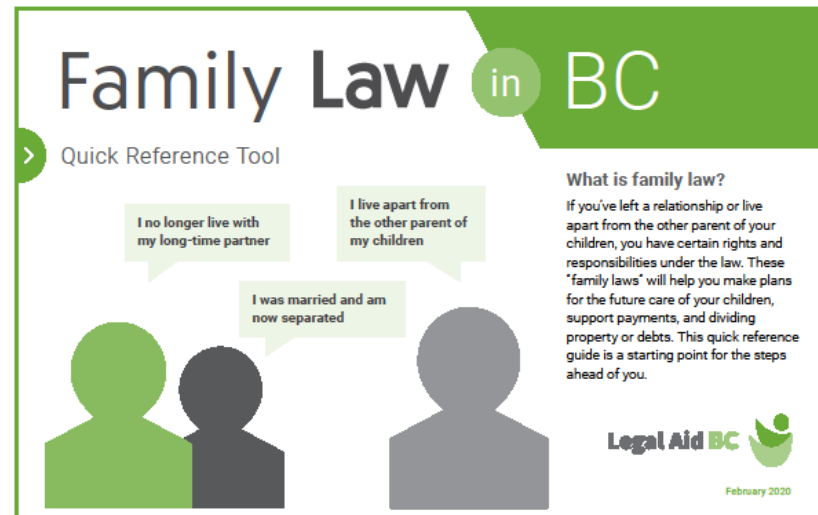
online-only

Legal Aid BC



Family Law

Level 1



multilingual



Level 2



multilingual

Legal Aid BC

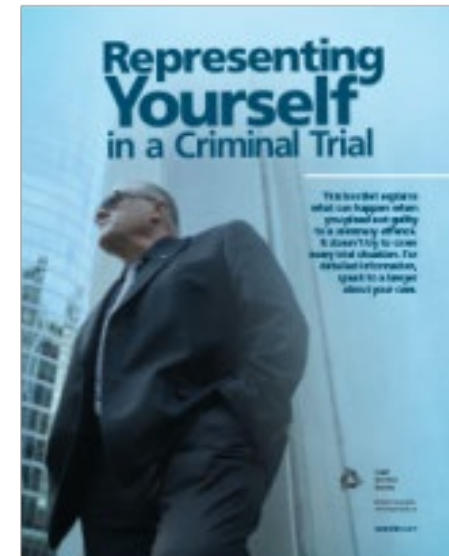
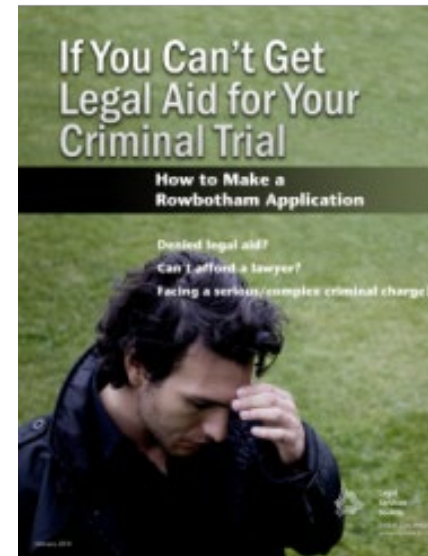


Criminal Law

Level 1

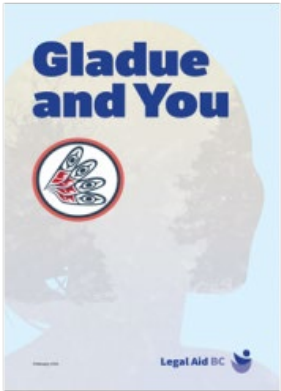


Level 2

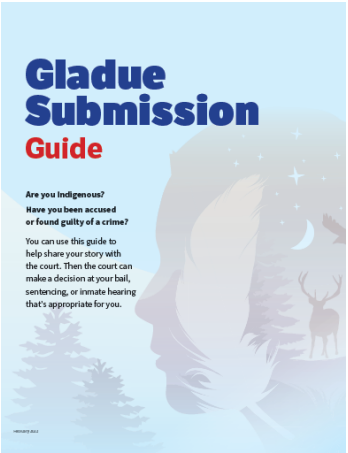


Indigenous/Gladue/Reserve

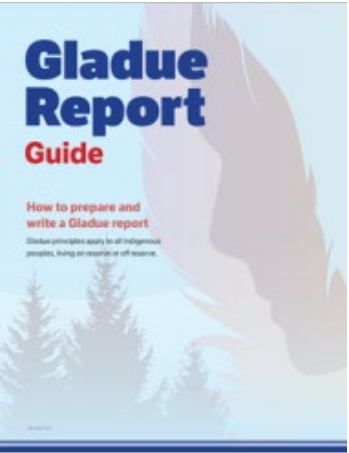
Level 1



Level 2



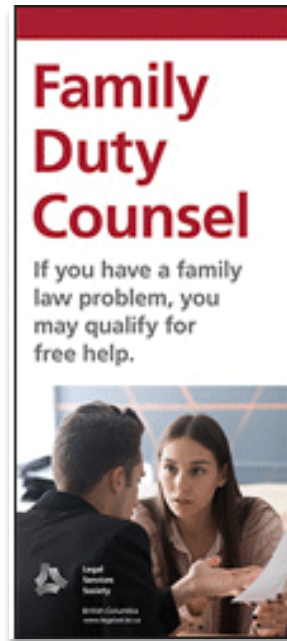
Level 3



Letting people know about legal aid services



multilingual



Legal Aid BC



VIDEOS

You **Tube** .com/LegalAidBC

- Q & As
- Webinars
- Legal info
- Training Videos
- How-to
- Animations
- More

The screenshot shows the Legal Aid BC YouTube channel page. At the top, there is a green and white logo and the text "Legal Aid BC". To the right is a red "SUBSCRIBE" button. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, DISCUSSION, and ABOUT. A search icon is also present. The main content area is divided into two sections: "Animation" and "Popular uploads". The "Animation" section features four video thumbnails: "Clear Skies Trailer" (1:14), "Clear Skies" (15:02), "Emily's Choice" (20:37), and "Emily's Choice Trailer" (1:12). The "Popular uploads" section features five video thumbnails: "An Inside Look at Family Mediation" (8:31), "Making Your Will with MyLawBC (Dec 2016)" (4:31), "How to Use the New Supreme Court Family Forms" (12:10), "Questioning witnesses in a BC Supreme Court trial" (5:26), and "Needed for Divorce: Your Marriage Certificate" (11:25). Each video thumbnail includes a title, a view count, and the upload date.

Legal Aid BC

SUBSCRIBE

HOME VIDEOS PLAYLISTS CHANNELS DISCUSSION ABOUT

Animation ▶ PLAY ALL

Clear Skies Trailer 1:14
Legal Aid BC
132 views • 5 years ago
CC

Clear Skies 15:02
Legal Aid BC
1.9K views • 5 years ago

Emily's Choice 20:37
Legal Aid BC
1.2K views • 4 years ago

Emily's Choice Trailer 1:12
Legal Aid BC
231 views • 4 years ago

Popular uploads ▶ PLAY ALL

An Inside Look at Family Mediation 8:31
Legal Aid BC
5.7K views • 7 years ago

Making Your Will with MyLawBC (Dec 2016) 4:31
Legal Aid BC
4.5K views • 1 year ago

How to Use the New Supreme Court Family Forms 12:10
Legal Aid BC
4.4K views • 9 years ago

Questioning witnesses in a BC Supreme Court trial 5:26
Legal Aid BC
3.9K views • 5 years ago

Needed for Divorce: Your Marriage Certificate 11:25
Legal Aid BC
2.1K views • 9 years ago

Legal Aid BC



Family Law videos

- 100s of videos
- When Parents Disagree: COVID-19 vaccine for children
- What is family duty counsel?
- How can family duty counsel help in court?
- Working through a new parenting plan: Staying out of court / going to court
- Do I need a protection order?

 Wildfire evacuees: need legal help

- Overview
- Resources
- Client services
- Workshops & conferences
- Free publications
- Our newsletters
- Training videos

We provide legal help

We provide  legal aid in British Columbia. Legal aid is available, but not everyone can afford a lawyer. We can help you with your legal issue.

Apply by phone [in your community](#).

Or call 1-866-577-2525 / 604-408-2172 (Greater Vancouver)



 **COVID-19 info**

 **Our locations**

 **Our services**

 **Our publications**

 **Contact us**

Questions about our publications?



EMAIL ADDRESS

Publications@legalaid.bc

PHONE NUMBER

604.601.6000

Legal Aid BC



Legal Aid Print & Online Resources

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

Legal Aid BC
Support when you need it



How can you help people with legal information?



Recognize the legal
issue



Find ways to stay out
of court and resolve
problems early



Find options for help

OVERVIEW

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



Aboriginal Legal Aid in BC

Find out about your rights as an Aboriginal person in BC, and connect 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.

Legal Aid BC



Cover your
tracks

Hide this
site

CONTACT
LEGAL AID

604-408-2172 (Greater Vancouver)
1-866-577-2525 (elsewhere in BC)

Search



Aboriginal
Legal Aid in BC

Legal Aid for Aboriginal people in BC

HOME

CHILD &
FAMILY RIGHTS

COURTS & CRIMINAL
CASES

LEGAL ISSUES
ON RESERVE

LEGAL AID CAN
HELP

RESOURCES

ISSUES &
UPDATES

ABOUT US

**Are you Aboriginal? Do you have a legal
issue?**



Aboriginal.legalaid.bc.ca

Legal Aid BC

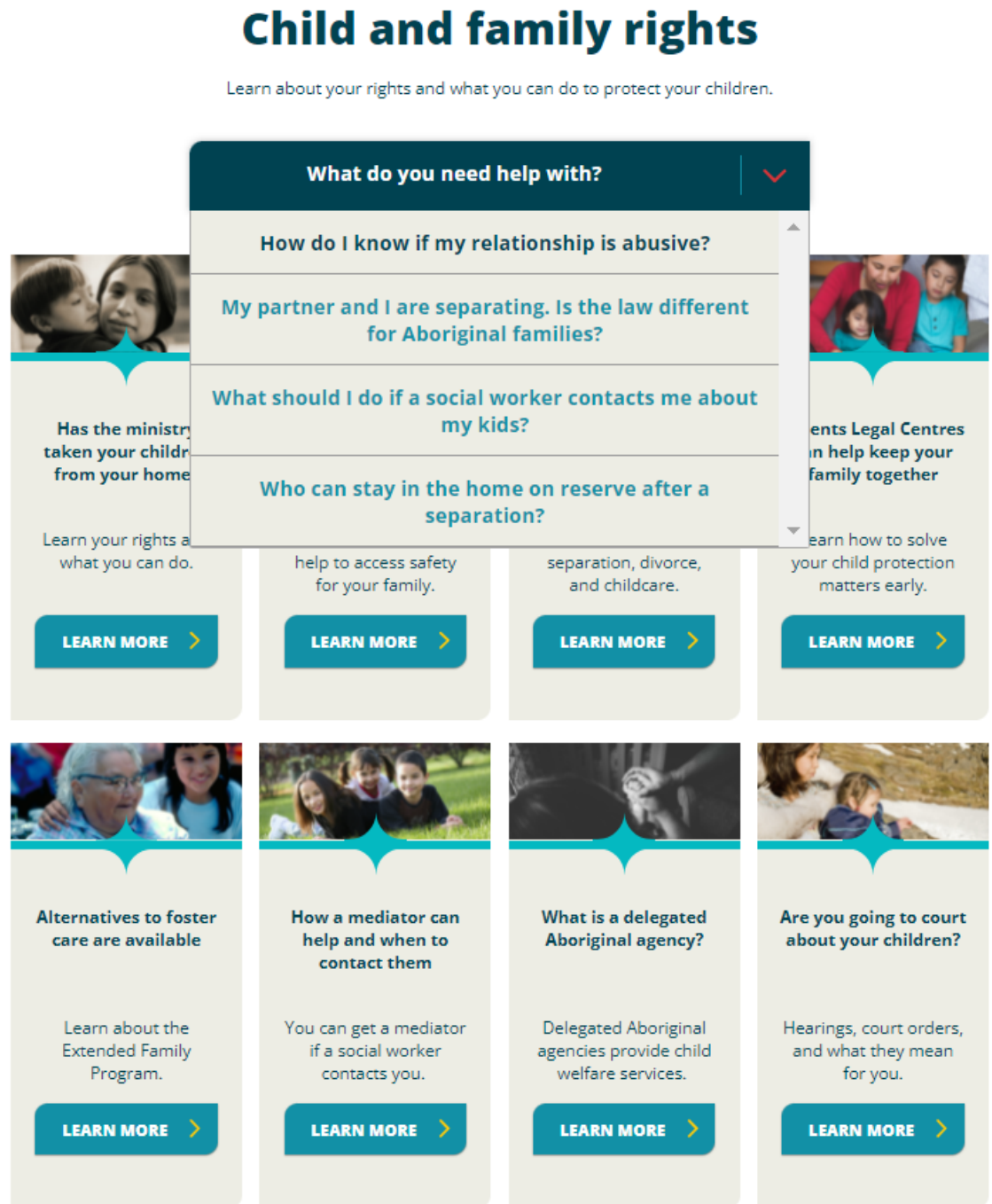


USER CENTERED DESIGN

- Helps users to quickly identify issue areas
- Helps users to identify legal issues
- Connect users to Resources
- Designed to not overwhelm users

Child and family rights

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



What do you need help with?

- How do I know if my relationship is abusive?
- My partner and I are separating. Is the law different for Aboriginal families?
- What should I do if a social worker contacts me about my kids?
- Who can stay in the home on reserve after a separation?

Has the ministry taken your children from your home?
Learn your rights and what you can do.
[LEARN MORE >](#)

help to access safety for your family.
[LEARN MORE >](#)

separation, divorce, and childcare.
[LEARN MORE >](#)

Parents Legal Centres can help keep your family together.
Learn how to solve your child protection matters early.
[LEARN MORE >](#)

Alternatives to foster care are available.
Learn about the Extended Family Program.
[LEARN MORE >](#)

How a mediator can help and when to contact them.
You can get a mediator if a social worker contacts you.
[LEARN MORE >](#)

What is a delegated Aboriginal agency?
Delegated Aboriginal agencies provide child welfare services.
[LEARN MORE >](#)

Are you going to court about your children?
Hearings, court orders, and what they mean for you.
[LEARN MORE >](#)

USER CENTERED DESIGN

- Helps users to quickly identify issue areas
- Helps users to identify legal issues
- Connect users to Resources
- Designed to not overwhelm users

Child protection

Has a social worker contacted you about your children?

You have the right to legal advice.

If a social worker from the [Ministry of Children and Family Development](#) or a [delegated Aboriginal agency](#) contacts you or visits your home, they might think your child is at risk (isn't safe). This is part of the child protection process (also called an investigation.) An investigation is serious. The social worker might take your child from your home.

You, your family, and your community have rights. The law says the ministry must respect your child's family ties and Aboriginal identity.

Find out below what you can do if a social worker has contacted you and how a Parents Legal Centre might be able to help.

> What is child protection?

> What you can do if a social worker has contacted you

^ What a social worker must do if they take your child

If a social worker takes your child from your home, they must:

- notify your child's Aboriginal community representative (such as the First Nation band)
- take steps to protect your child's family ties and Aboriginal identity
- consider your child's family ties and Aboriginal identity when choosing a foster home
- in many cases, allow a representative from your child's band or Aboriginal community to go to court with you

LIVED EXPERIENCES

- Using lived experiences and storytelling from within community





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.



FamilyLaw.

Legal help for people in BC



Familylaw.lss.bc.ca

Legal Aid BC



FAMILY LAW IN BC

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

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.



Finances & Support

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.



BC Legal System

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.



Advocates



Immigration



Aboriginal

GUIDES

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

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

Joint application for an uncontested divorce

 Print  Forms  Glossary  Email



Step 1: Gather your documents



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

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-by-step guide [Write your own separation agreement](#).

Quick Links

- [Go to the Online Divorce Assistant](#)



Wellness

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



Refreshed MyLawBC Website Walkthrough

Legal





Get free help for your legal issue.

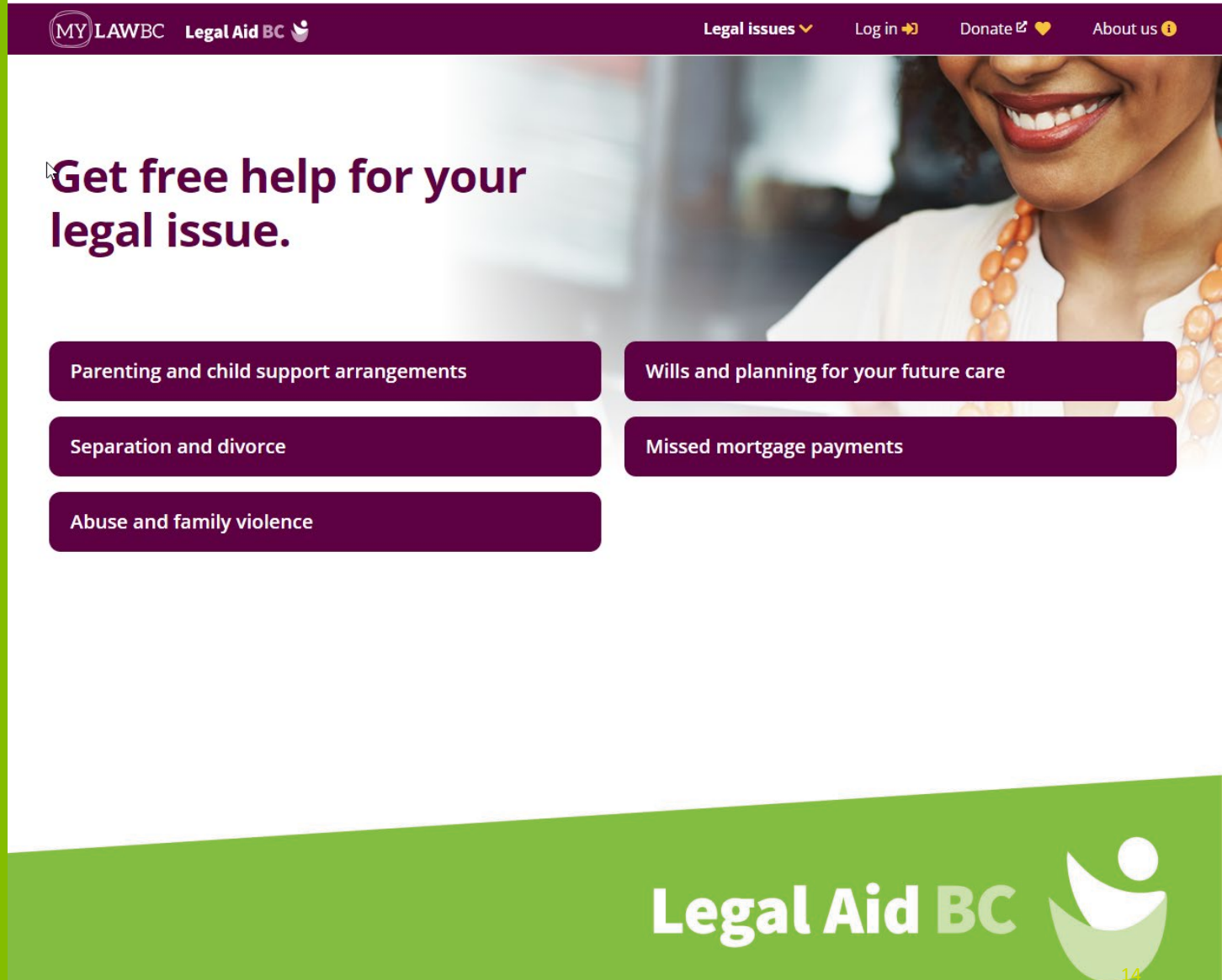


MyLawBC.com



WHAT IT CAN HELP WITH

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



The screenshot shows the top of the Legal Aid BC website. The header is dark purple with the 'MY LAWBC' logo, 'Legal Aid BC' text, and navigation links for 'Legal issues', 'Log in', 'Donate', and 'About us'. Below the header, a woman's smiling face is partially visible on the right. The main heading reads 'Get free help for your legal issue.' followed by five purple buttons: 'Parenting and child support arrangements', 'Wills and planning for your future care', 'Separation and divorce', 'Missed mortgage payments', and 'Abuse and family violence'. The bottom of the page features a green banner with the 'Legal Aid BC' logo and a stylized person icon.

MY LAWBC Legal Aid BC

Legal issues Log in Donate About us

Get free help for your legal issue.

Parenting and child support arrangements

Wills and planning for your future care

Separation and divorce

Missed mortgage payments

Abuse and family violence

Legal Aid BC

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

Make a will



You're finished!
Here's your action plan.

You can read this action plan on screen, and click [Download or share](#) to download a PDF, share by email or get a link. Your PDF is a copy of all the important information, and what steps you need to take. MyLawBC doesn't keep a copy of your answers or your action plan.

[Download or share](#)

[Donate](#)

Do you think your visit will help you avoid or resolve a legal issue?*



Yes



No



Unsure

- ✓ Your situation
- ✓ What you need to know
- ✓ Your first steps
- ✓ Your next steps
- ✓ Where to get help

Legal Aid BC



We're Legal Aid BC. We provide legal help to all British Columbians. [Learn more about us.](#)

CONTACT US

400 - 510 Burrard Street
V6C 2B8

GET FREE HELP

[Parenting and child support arrangements](#)

[Separation and divorce](#)

[Abuse and family violence](#)

[Missed mortgage payments](#)

[Wills and planning for your future care](#)

DEVELOPED WITH



FUNDED BY



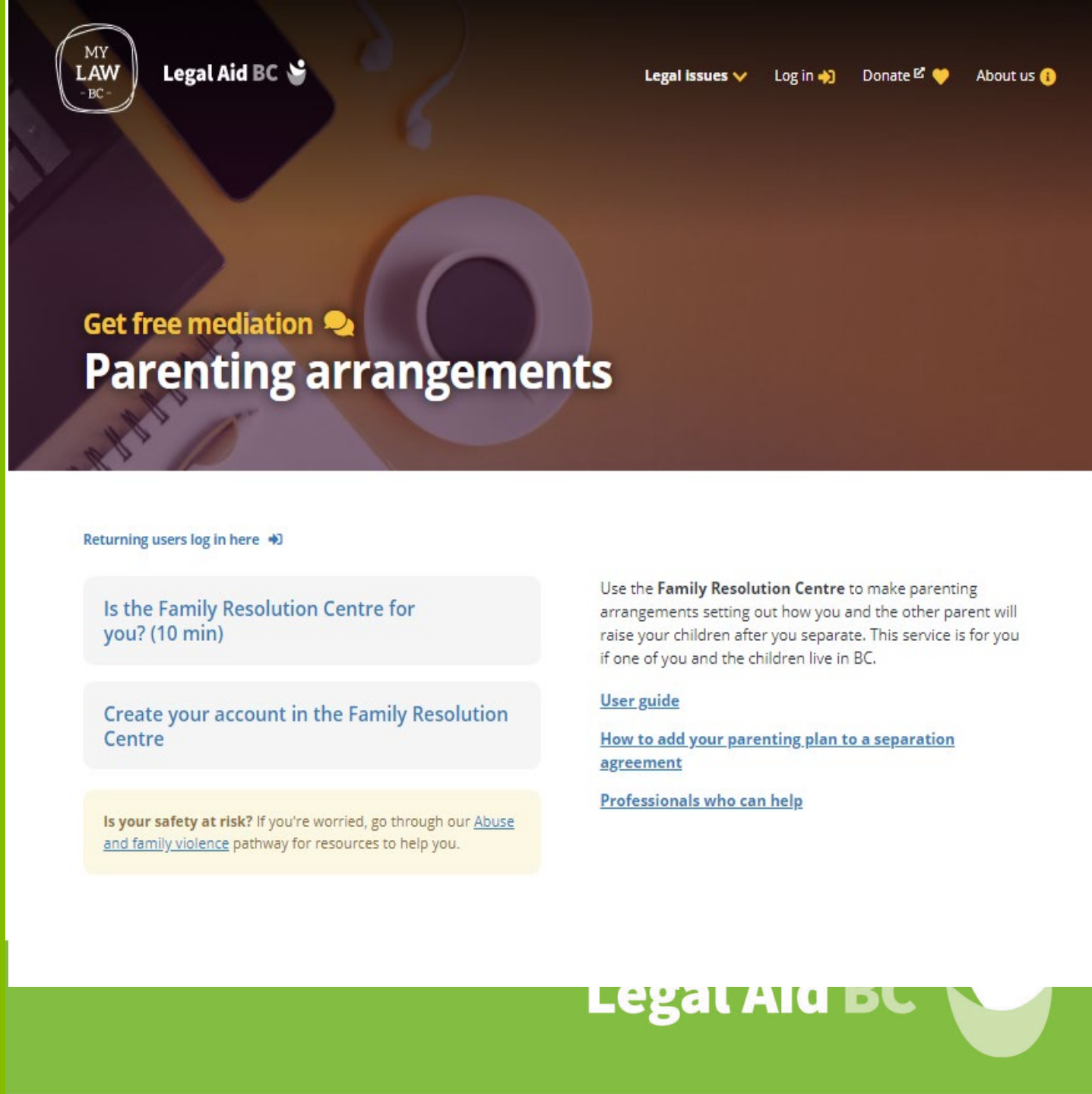
Guided pathways available

- 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



The screenshot shows the Legal Aid BC website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "Legal Issues", "Log in", "Donate", and "About us". The main header features the "MY LAW BC" logo and the text "Legal Aid BC". Below this, a large banner reads "Get free mediation" followed by a speech bubble icon and "Parenting arrangements". The main content area includes a link for "Returning users log in here" and three primary action buttons: "Is the Family Resolution Centre for you? (10 min)", "Create your account in the Family Resolution Centre", and "Is your safety at risk?". To the right of these buttons, there is a paragraph explaining the Family Resolution Centre service, followed by links for "User guide", "How to add your parenting plan to a separation agreement", and "Professionals who can help". The footer of the website displays the "Legal Aid BC" logo.

MY LAW BC Legal Aid BC

Legal Issues Log in Donate About us

Get free mediation
Parenting arrangements

Returning users log in here

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 [Abuse 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](#)

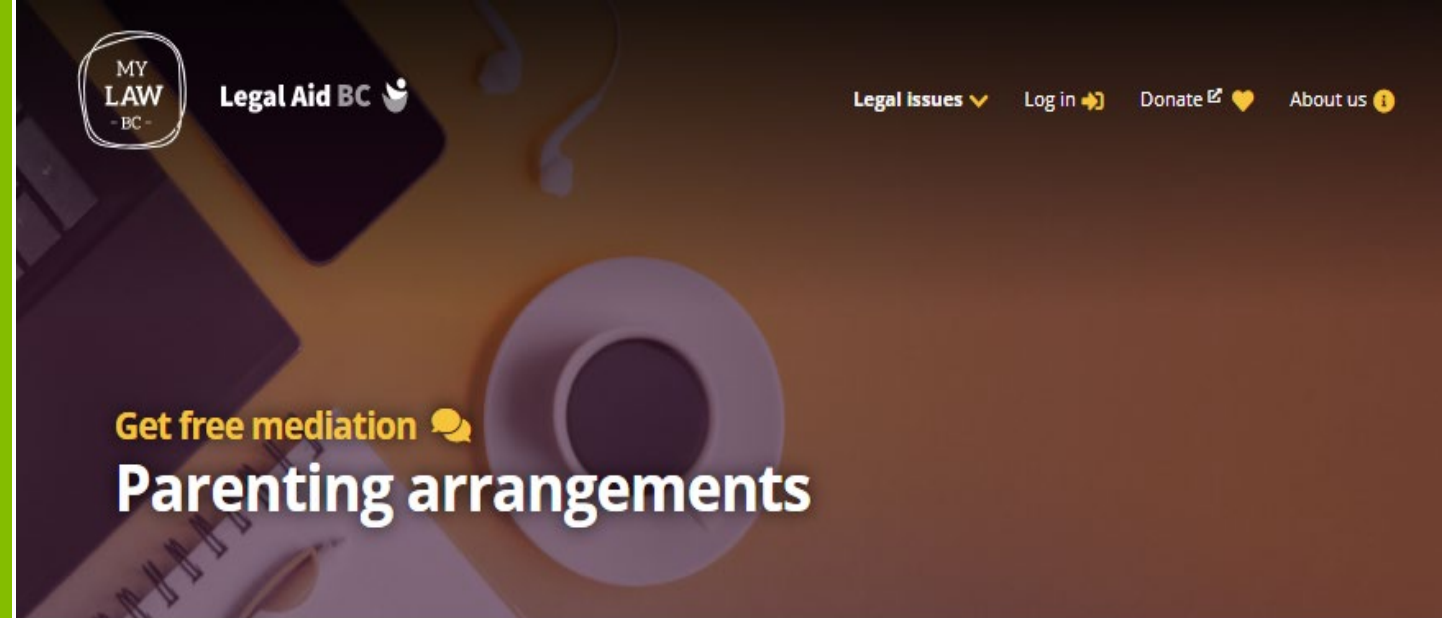
[How to add your parenting plan to a separation agreement](#)

[Professionals who can help](#)

Legal Aid BC

FAMILY RESOLUTION CENTRE

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



Returning users log in here ➔

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 [Abuse 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](#)

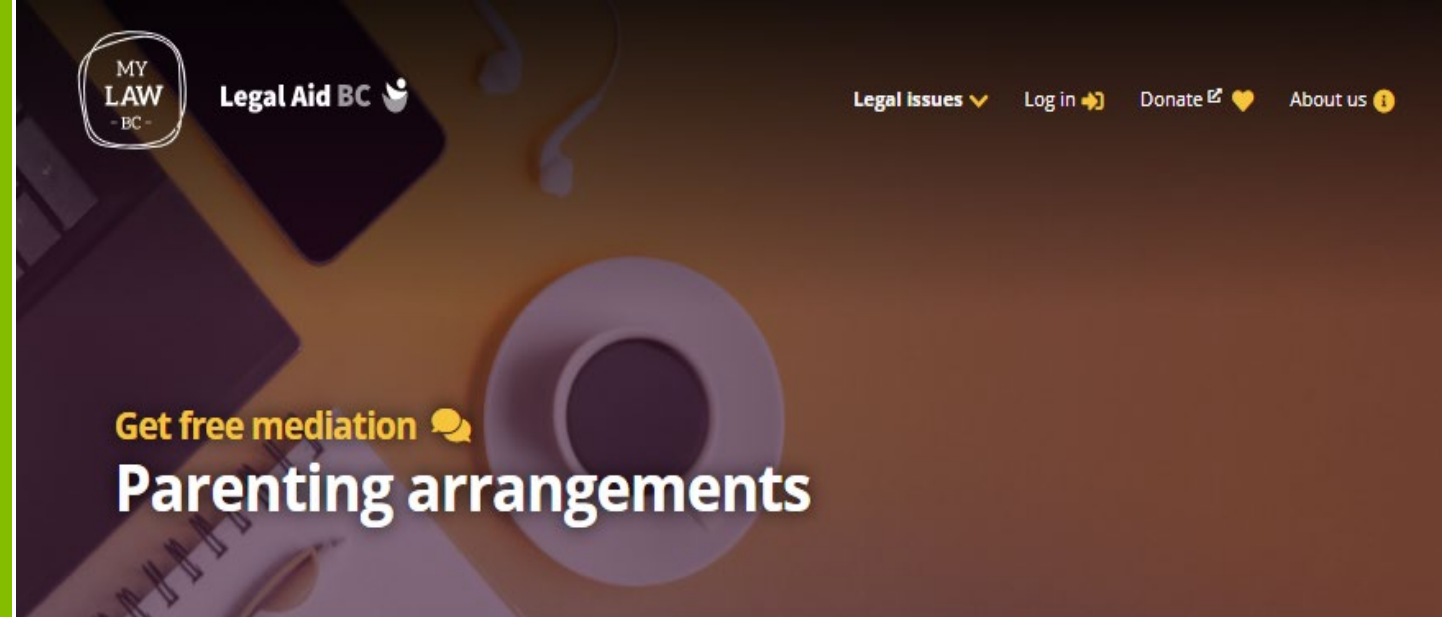
[How to add your parenting plan to a separation agreement](#)

[Professionals who can help](#)

Legal Aid BC

FREE MEDIATION

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



Returning users log in here ➔

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 [Abuse 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 Aid BC

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 and Child Support issues
- No financial eligibility requirements
- Screening for appropriateness for online mediation
 - No cases with family violence



MyLawBC Family Resolution Centre

Email address

Password

[Forgot password?](#)

[Create Account](#)

[Sign In](#)

Welcome to the Family Resolution Centre

This service helps separating parents make a parenting plan that's in the best interest of their children using online dispute resolution. If you and the other parent need or want more help, you can work with a free professional mediator.

PARENTS

If you have children and you're separating or divorcing, you need a parenting plan; a document that outlines how you'll raise your children. This service walks you through the process.

You'll discuss issues including when each of you will spend time with your children, who'll make decisions about your children, where your children will spend their holidays, and other important topics. If you get stuck, you can ask for a professional mediator, qualified under the Family Law Act, to help you.

There is no cost to you. Work on your parenting plan wherever you have access to a computer, whenever works best for you.

MEDIATORS

You'll be able to access all relevant case information, directly interact with case participants, and create parenting plans wherever you have access to a computer, whenever works best for you and the parents.

What's next?



NOW



Answer some questions to participate in an online parenting plan session.

2



Propose and review a parenting plan.

3



Discuss the available options and solutions.

4



Optional: A mediator is assigned to help you create a parenting plan.

5



Create a parenting plan that's in the best interests of your child or children.

Click **Next** to answer some questions about your situation.

Go to

Select



Previous

Next

Amy Training - Joshua Training

Session #21FAM00151

- Home
- Talk it out
- Request Help from a Mediator
- 1 Files
- Summary
- 1 History
- What Else Can I Do?

Parenting plan progress

To build the parenting plan, you and Joshua must make decisions in the following 7 areas:

Next



Decision Making



Parenting/Contact Time



Statutory Holidays and Special Days



School Breaks



Vacation



Transportation



Additional Terms

Navigate to Page



Amy Training - Joshua Training

Session #21FAM00151

Home

Talk it out

Request Help from a Mediator

Files

Summary

History

... What Else Can I Do?

Decision making: Choose an option

Parenting responsibilities include making decisions about education, culture, religion, medical treatment, and sharing and receiving information.

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:

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.

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.

Who will make decisions about the children? *

- ☐ 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.
- ☒ 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.
- ☐ 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.

Amy Training - Joshua Training

Session #21FAM00151

-  Home
-  Talk it out
-  Request Help from a Mediator
-  Files
-  Summary
-  History
-  What Else Can I Do?

Review your proposed plan

Your proposed parenting plan is ready for review and acceptance.

Parenting Plan

This parenting plan commences as soon as both parties have signed.

This parenting plan is dated: 01/31/2021

BETWEEN:

Training, Amy, "Amy"

AND:

Training, Joshua, "Joshua"

We are the parents of the following child or children:

COMPOSE



Inbox

Drafts

Sent

Starred

Archive

Spam

Trash

All Mail

Folders / Labels

(19FAM00012) MyLawBC Family: Review a proposed parentin...
no-reply@uat-mylawbcfam2.modria.com



2:15 PM

(19FAM00012) MyLawBC Family: Review a proposed parenting plan



Subject: (19FAM00052) MyLawBC Family Resolution Centre: Review a proposed parenting plan

From: no-reply@uat-mylawbcfam2.modria.com

Received: Mon Jul 29 2019 14:59:04 GMT-0700 (Pacific Daylight Time)

Sending IP: 54.240.8.93



MyLawBC 400 - 510 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 3A8 phone: [604-601-6000](tel:604-601-6000)

Hello Joshua,

Notification

- We're pleased to invite you to our online resolution process to help you and Amy make a parenting plan for your child or children.
- Amy already proposed a parenting plan for you to review.
- You can work on your parenting plan online, wherever you feel most comfortable, at any time.
- Once you've proposed a parenting plan, if you and Amy are unable to reach an agreement, you can ask a mediator to help you.
- The professional mediator is fully qualified under the BC Family Law Act. The mediator is a neutral third party who can help you online. There's no cost to you.

Next Steps

- Review and respond to Amy's proposal within 7 days: by Monday, August 05, 2019
- If you don't complete your proposed parenting plan within 7 days, your parenting plan session will be closed.
- Once you have completed and sent your proposal, you and Amy will have until Friday, September 27, 2019 to reach an agreement

Click this link to log in and access your parenting plan session: [19FAM00052](https://uat-mylawbcfam2.modria.com/#casedetails/52?token=MGJkZWrmNjgtMWYyYS00MTlmLWI5YTktNjE0ZGM0Y2I3NWJmMTU2NDQzNzU0MzgxOQ==)

If clicking the link above doesn't work, copy and paste the URL below in a browser window instead.

<https://uat-mylawbcfam2.modria.com/#casedetails/52?token=MGJkZWrmNjgtMWYyYS00MTlmLWI5YTktNjE0ZGM0Y2I3NWJmMTU2NDQzNzU0MzgxOQ==>

Sincerely,

MyLawBC team

This is an automatically generated email, please don't reply. MyLawBC is developed by the Legal Services Society.

Amy Training - Joshua Training

Session #21FAM00151

- Home
- Talk it out
- Request Help from a Mediator
- 1 Files
- Summary
- 1 History
- What Else Can I Do?

Parenting plan progress

To build the parenting plan, you and Joshua must make decisions in the following 7 areas:

Next



Decision Making



Parenting/Contact Time



Statutory Holidays and Special Days



School Breaks



Vacation



Transportation



Additional Terms

Navigate to Page

Amy Training - Joshua Training

Session #21FAM00151

- 🏠

Home
- 💬

Talk it out
- 📁

Files
- 📘

Summary
- 🕒

History
- ⋮

What Else Can I Do?

▼ Decision Making



^ Parenting/Contact Time

Amy's Proposal

Each week, the child or children live with Amy Sunday at 3:00 PM through Wednesday at 3:00 PM. The child or children live with Joshua Wednesday at 3:00 PM through Sunday at 3:00 PM.

Joshua's Proposal

Each week, the child or children live with Joshua Sunday at 9:00 AM through Wednesday at 9:00 AM. The child or children live with Amy Wednesday at 9:00 AM through Sunday at 9:00 AM.

▼ Statutory Holidays and Special Days



▼ School Breaks



▼ Vacation





Amy Training - Joshua Training

Session #21FAM00033



Chat with everyone



Amy / Mediator



2

Joshua / Mediator



4



Chat with everyone

Disable

Amy Training (Parent A)

Added a file: [Amy Training Drivers license.jpg](#)

11:38:22

Joshua Training (Parent B)

Added a file: [Amy Training Drivers license.jpg](#)

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.





Amy Training - Joshua Training

Session #21FAM00033



Home



2

Talk it out



1

Files



Summary



4

History

Review your proposed plan

The mediator drafted a parenting plan for you and Joshua to review. Your proposed parenting plan is ready for review and acceptance.

Parenting Plan

This parenting plan commences as soon as both parties have signed.

BETWEEN:

Training, Amy, "Amy"



New mail from no-reply@uat-mylawb...
mail.protonmail.com
MyLawBC Family Resolution Center: New...

New mail from no-reply@uat-mylawb...
mail.protonmail.com
MyLawBC Family Resolution Center: New...

MYLAWBC Start a Parenting Plan Disputes

Amy Training - Joshua Training
Session #21FAM00033

Review your proposed plan

Acknowledgements

This parenting plan has been fully negotiated and represents our intentions and expectations. We each acknowledge that we:

- have read the entire parenting plan carefully;
- know and understand the contents of the parenting plan;
- believe that the parenting plan is in the best interests of the child or children;
- are agreeing to this parenting plan voluntarily without any undue influence or being forced by the other party or anyone else;
- understand that this parenting plan may form part of an Agreement or Order and may be reviewed and changed by the court; and
- an agreement that is signed and witnessed is binding and may be enforceable by the court.

Any changes to this parenting plan must be made in writing and signed by both of us. The law of British Columbia applies to this parenting plan unless we agree otherwise.

Does this information look correct? *

☒ Yes
☐ No

Go to: Select

Previous Next

MYLAWBC Start a Parenting Plan Disputes

Amy Training - Joshua Training
Session #21FAM00033

Review your proposed plan

Acknowledgements

This parenting plan has been fully negotiated and represents our intentions and expectations. We each acknowledge that we:

- have read the entire parenting plan carefully;
- know and understand the contents of the parenting plan;
- believe that the parenting plan is in the best interests of the child or children;
- are agreeing to this parenting plan voluntarily without any undue influence or being forced by the other party or anyone else;
- understand that this parenting plan may form part of an Agreement or Order and may be reviewed and changed by the court; and
- an agreement that is signed and witnessed is binding and may be enforceable by the court.

Any changes to this parenting plan must be made in writing and signed by both of us. The law of British Columbia applies to this parenting plan unless we agree otherwise.

Does this information look correct? *

☒ Yes
☐ No

Go to: Select

Previous Next



THANK YOU

adam.fraser@legalaid.bc.ca



Legal Aid BC





Aboriginal
Legal Aid in BC

Legal Information & Resources

September 2021

Legal Aid BC

Support when you need it



Legal Information Outreach Worker (LIOW)

https://legalaid.bc.ca/legal_aid/legalInformationOutreachWorkers

LIOW services :

- Legal information and referrals
- Family law website chat
- Assist clients at Downtown Community Court and New Westminster First Nations Court
- Free legal information session and legal information tables for community groups and events

Contact: 604-601-6166 or Legal Aid line 1-866-577-2525 (select legal information)

Legal Aid BC



Aboriginal Community Legal Worker (ACLW) Duncan and Nanaimo

https://legalaid.bc.ca/legal_aid/aboriginalCommunityLegalWorker

ACLW can give legal information and limited advice about:

- family and child protection law, Indian residential schools, housing, wills and estates
- attend court with you, help you prepare forms and letters, participate in negotiations
- give referrals to other services
- talk on your behalf to: MCDF staff, legal aid lawyer, duty counsel, or your band

Phone: Duncan (250) 748 1160, Nanaimo (250) 741 5529

What is legal information?

What is the difference between Legal Information and Legal Advice?



Legal Aid BC



Legal Information v. Legal Advice

Legal Information

- To tell a person in general about the law
- Can help a person understand when a problem is a legal problem
- Can include 'next steps' or referrals

Legal Advice

- Interprets the law and/or applies it to a specific situation
- Recommendations based on an assessment of the situation

Some material
borrowed from:



Legal Aid BC



How to help people with legal information?



Recognize legal issue



Find ways to stay out of court and resolve problems
early



Find options for help



legalaid.bc.ca

legalaid.bc.ca

Legal Aid BC
Support when you need it

How to contact us | Media centre | Lawyer Portal

Search

Home Legal aid ▾ Lawyers ▾ Community workers ▾ News ▾ About us ▾

COVID-19: Legal Aid BC now takes phone-only applications. [Find the legal help you need.](#)

We're here to help during COVID-19

We provide **legal aid** in BC. The law is complicated, but not everyone can afford a lawyer. We can help you with your legal issue.

Apply by phone [in your community.](#)

Or call 1-866-577-2525; 604-408-2172 (Greater Vancouver)

- Our locations
- Our services
- Our publications
- Contact us

Family Children/MCF Criminal Immigration

Legal Aid BC



How to Contact Us?

Legal Aid Call Centre:

604-408-2172 or 1-866-577-2525

Legal Information Outreach Worker:

Direct: 604-601-6166

Immigration line (legal aid applications)

(604-601-6076)

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am – 2:30 pm

Legal resources for family law issues

- JP Boyd on Family Law:
https://wiki.clicklaw.bc.ca/index.php?title=JP_Boyd_on_Family_Law
- Who to call: <https://family.legalaid.bc.ca/call>
- Where to go: <https://family.legalaid.bc.ca/visit>
- Unbundled Legal Services :
<https://unbundlinglaw.peopleslawschool.ca/>
- ACCESS Probono, ½ hr. free legal advice:
<https://accessprobono.ca/get-legal-help>
- BC211 referral services: 211, <https://bc211.ca/>
- Amici Curiae Paralegal Clinic:
<https://www.legalformsbc.ca/#/>



OTHER LEGAL INFORMATION RESOURCES



www.justiceeducation.ca



www.clicklaw.bc.ca



www.povnet.org



www.peopleslawschool.ca



dialalaw.peopleslawschool.ca

Legal Aid BC



Keep up to date

Twitter: @legalaidthbc



Facebook: Legal Aid BC



Factum news letter

QR code:



Legal Aid BC



Scenarios



Scenario #1

You're helping a client, Alice, in Prince George, who tells you that a social worker has visited her place to ask some questions about her children and her upcoming pregnancy. She's not sure what this means or if she should do anything, but she is very scared.

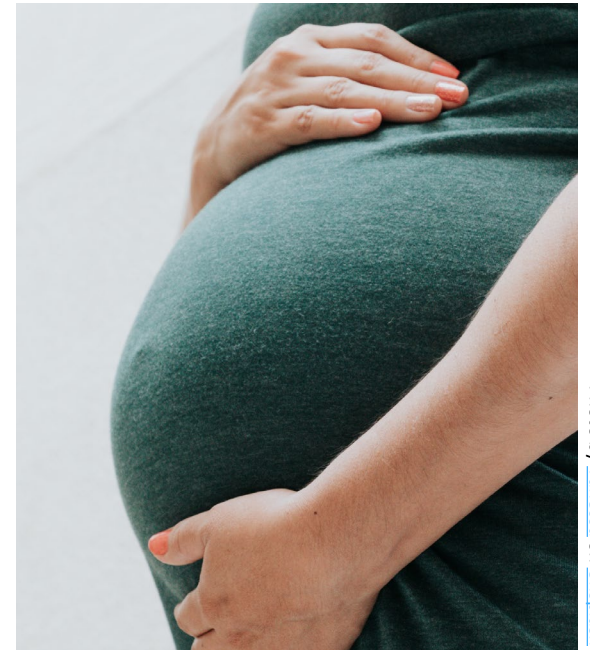


Photo by [Vanessa](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Possible referrals and resources

LABC services

- Parents Legal Centre in Prince George **1-888-522-2752** (1-888-LABC-PLC)
- Community Partner in Prince George **604-485-0992**
- Family duty counsel
- Family LawLINE **1-866-577-2525**

LABC print resources

- *Keeping Aboriginal Kids Safe*
- *Parents' Rights, Kids' Rights*

LABC online resources

- Family Law in BC
- Aboriginal Legal Aid in BC

You can also check out Clicklaw for more resources and referrals!

Scenario #2

You're in Penticton, and you have a client, Gurpreet, who is looking for information about how to make a will for herself and his wife. They have 2 children and one on the way.

They're wondering if they can make a simple will without having to pay a lawyer to draw it up.



Photo by [Joly Gailina](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Possible referrals and resources

Online and print resources

- MyLawBC – Make a will pathway
- Peoples' Law School website: All about wills
- Peoples' Law School publication: *Preparing Your Will*

Other legal resources and services

- Community Partner in Penticton **250-493-6822 (ex208)**
- Access Pro Bono Wills Clinic **1-877-762-6664**
- Clicklaw> Wills & Estates / HelpMap

Scenario #3

You're located in Victoria, and you have a client, Theresa, who is pregnant and rents a place with her partner.

Theresa comes to you with bruises on her arms. She says that she wants to leave, but is afraid of her partner getting angry. She is also financially dependent on her partner.

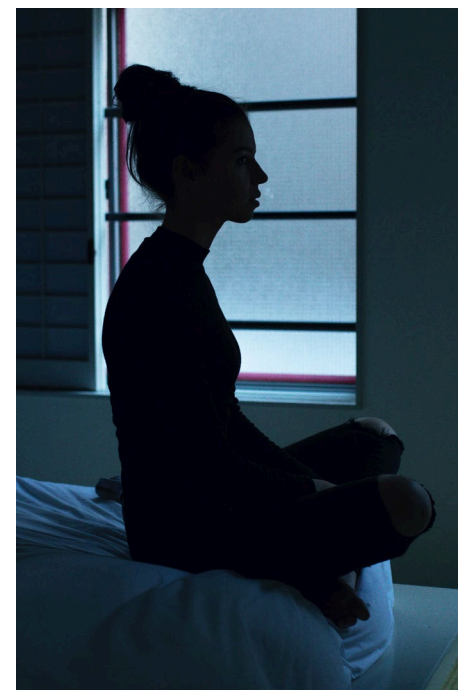


Photo by [Ben Blennerhassett](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Possible referrals and resources

LABC services

- LABC local agent – Victoria
250-382-4620
- Family duty counsel
- Family LawLINE

Non-LABC services

- VictimLinkBC – **1-800-563-0808**
- Rise Women's Legal Centre
236-317-9000

LABC print resources (multilingual)

- *Live Safe End Abuse*
- *Mothers Leaving Abusive Partners*

LABC online resources

- MyLawBC – Make a safety plan pathway
- Family Law in BC

You can also check out Clicklaw for more resources and referrals!

Thank you



LIOWs: Frances, Catherine, Silvia
604 601 6166, 1-866-577-2525

Legal Aid BC

