

# Did you know?

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## FAMILY COURT

**Family Court is a division of the Provincial Court in our Provincial court system. When you and your partner separate, you can go to Family Court to get a court order about parenting arrangements, contact or support. You can also do this in B.C. Supreme Court (which is a higher level court), but there are some advantages to having your order made in Family Court.**

### The Advantages Of Family Court

- You can make an application yourself. You don't necessarily need a lawyer.
- It is often quicker than BC Supreme Court.
- Family Courts may be closer to where you live.
- Later, if you need to change (vary) an order, it is easier to do than in BC Supreme Court.

### You Cannot Use Family Court To:

- Get a divorce.
- Get a court order giving you the right to live in the family home and excluding your spouse.
- Divide up family property and debt.

*These matters must be dealt with in BC Supreme Court.*

If you don't have family property you can go to Family Court to get your parenting arrangement, contact or support orders and then go to Supreme Court for a simple, uncontested divorce. Your local bookstore may have guides that tell you how to do an uncontested divorce and what documents you need, or visit the Legal Services Society website at [http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca/legal\\_issues/divorce.php](http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca/legal_issues/divorce.php).

### What Do Family Justice Counsellors Do?

Family Justice counsellors are mediators who are professionally trained and free of charge. They can help you by explaining what you have to do in Family Court. They can also give you and your spouse counselling and mediate family problems that you have after separation. Often this can lead to a separation agreement or a consent order.

### For More Information

To contact a Family Justice Counsellor, call Service BC: Lower Mainland: 604-660-2421, Victoria: 250-387-6121, or Elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867, or <http://www.justicebc.ca/en/fam/index.html>  
North Shore Family Justice Centre: 604-981-0084