

Did you know?

Revised June
2013

FAMILY DUTY COUNSEL (LAWYER)

Family duty counsel are lawyers paid by the Legal Services Society (BC Legal Aid) to help people with low incomes deal with their family law problems. If you have a family law issue, you may qualify for help from family duty counsel in Provincial or Supreme Court even if you don't qualify for a legal aid lawyer. The project is a drop-in service and people are helped on a first come, first served basis. The lawyer will usually first assist people who have family court that day and then assist others.

Do I have to financially qualify for this service?

Yes. You have to financially qualify for this service. Once you qualify, the family lawyer can help you with most matters in family court. If you do not qualify financially, the lawyer can still assist you by attending court with you to request an adjournment and give you legal advice.

Any matters that the lawyer cannot assist with?

There are some matters that the family lawyer cannot assist you with.

- 1) Provincial Court family duty counsel cannot assist with matters in Supreme Court, and Supreme Court family duty counsel cannot help with matters in provincial jurisdiction.
- 2) The lawyer cannot assist or go to court with you for a contested trial or any complex family matter.

Which court deals with which area of family law?

Both BC Provincial Court and Supreme Court deal with matters concerning guardianship, child or spousal support, or parenting time. Provincial Court exclusively handles child protection matters. Supreme Court judges can grant divorces, make orders dividing spousal property, and orders relating to the occupation of the family home.

Where are these offices located?

North Vancouver Provincial Court:
200 East 23rd Street, 2nd Floor
Every Tuesday, 12-4pm. Drop in or call for an appointment: (604) 981-0200.

Supreme Court (Robson Square, Vancouver)
290-800 Hornby Street
Call for an appointment: (604) 660-1508.

For More Information:

Visit the LSS Family Law website at <http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca>.

Family Justice Information and Support:
<http://www.justicebc.ca/en/fam/index.html>