

Legally speaking...

Did you know?

Revised August 2013

PARENTING AFTER SEPARATION

The Parenting After Separation Course is a free, three hour information session for BC parents who are dealing with parenting arrangements and child support issues. The session is to help parents make informed decisions about the issues they face while going through separation.

Do all parents who are separating have to take this?

The course is not required for all parents. It is required in some larger communities for parents who are going to Provincial Family Court. If you are going to Provincial Family Court to get or change an order about parenting arrangements, contact or support, it is required that you take the session under Family Court Rule 21. For parents attending Supreme Court, taking the session is voluntary.

Where in North Vancouver is the Parenting After Separation Course held?

The Westcoast Family Centres Society offers Parenting After Separation sessions in the Vancouver and North Vancouver areas. Pre-registration is required, child care service is NOT provided, and parents will be registered in separate sessions. To book a space in a session at the North Shore Neighbourhood House, call 604-505-6577 or email pas@westcoastfamily.org.

What benefits does this session offer?

The session can be very useful in assisting you with your separation.

Some of the things covered in this session are:

- 1) Options for resolving family disputes, including mediation, Family Justice Counsellors and counselling.
- 2) How to keep your children out of the middle of conflict.
- 3) The effects of separation and change on you and your children.

Is anyone exempt from taking this?

If you have attended a Parenting After Separation session within the last two years, then you do not have to take it again. Also, if you and your spouse are filing a consent order, then you are exempted from the session. If you or your children's safety is at risk, if you have a serious health problem or if you live in an area where the Parenting Separation Course is not offered and you do not have Internet access to take the online course, you can get the exemption forms from your local Provincial Court or Family Justice Centre. Family Justice Counsellors are government employees at the Family Justice Centres who can give you information about the Family Law process.

For more information about the Parenting After Separation course held in North Vancouver, call the Westcoast Family Centres Society at (604) 505-6577.

To reach the North Vancouver Family Justice Centre, call (604) 981-0084 to book an appointment.

