

Time Limits



You have **30 days** from being served to file your Reply to Application About a Family Law Matter (Form 6), any counter application, and your Financial Statement (Form 4), if required.

What if I Don't Respond?

If you don't respond to the Application About a Family Law Matter (Form 3), the case can move ahead without you.

The judge can make orders without hearing your side, and you may not get notified of future court dates.

What Happens Next?

After you file your Reply, the court registry will reach out to you and your ex spouse with instructions on how to schedule a Family Management Conference.

This your first chance to present your case and respond to the other side in front of a judge.

Get Help

Amici Curiae Friends of the Court - can help you fill out court forms, and prepare for court appearances.
www.legalformsbc.ca

Legal Aid BC - call 1-866-577-2525 to see if you qualify for legal representation.

For more information see
www.familylawinbc.ca



Need Help? Ask Legal Help BC
Call or Text 1-855-875-8867



This pamphlet provides legal information only, not legal advice. Consider speaking with a lawyer.

Legally reviewed: April 2026



Justice Education Society

I'VE BEEN SERVED WITH....

Provincial Application About a Family Law Matter (Form 3)

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

www.familylawinbc.ca



An Application About a Family Law Matter (Form 3) is used to apply for a court order about:

- Parenting arrangements
- Child or spousal support
- Guardianship
- Contact with a child
- Companion animals

They are also used to apply to **change** an existing order or written agreement about any of the above.

Your Next Steps



Step 1 Read the Documents & Seek Legal Advice

Read the documents served on you to see what the other person is asking for. If possible, seek legal advice.



Step 2 Fill out a Reply To Application About a Family Law Matter (Form 6)

- Fill out a **Reply to Application About a Family Law Matter (Form 6)** as accurately as you can.
- Write down any information about you and your family that might help a judge make a decision. For example, what is current parenting schedule.
- The judge will use the information to make orders.
- Give as much relevant information as you can. It might be very hard to get the orders changed later.

Step 3 Make a Counter Application (optional)

- You can also make a counter application using **Form 6**.
- A counter application is your chance to tell the court what you want, not just respond to what the other person is asking for.

Step 4 File Financial Statement (Form 4) (if required)

A **Form 4 Financial Statement** is a document that tells the judge about your income, expenses, assets, and debts.

When to Complete a Form 4 Financial Statement

- If a claim for spousal or child support is made against you
- If you are claiming spousal support
- If you are claiming child support and each parent has (or is seeking) at least 40% of parenting time
- If either spouse claims undue hardship

Financial Statement Document Checklist



You will need:

1. Your tax returns for the last three years.
2. Your Notices of Assessment or Reassessment for the last three years.
3. Proof of income documents.