

Do You Need to Go to Court at All?



Many separating couples are able to come to an agreement about their legal issues without going to court.

Using options other than court, like mediation, can help you:

- Reduce stress and improve communication
- Save time and money
- Keep more control over decisions about your family
- Find solutions that work better for everyone involved

Get Help Reaching an Agreement



- Family Justice Counsellors offer free information and mediation services. Tel: 1-800-663-7867
- Mediate BC have family law mediators who meet with each person (with or without lawyers) to help resolve issues. Email: info@mediatebc.com
- Collaborative family lawyers help both sides work together to find solutions. Email: info@bccollaborativerostersociety.com

For more information see www.familylawinbc.ca



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

Which court...

PROVINCIAL OR SUPREME?

AFTER YOU SEPARATE

www.familylawinbc.ca



You can start your family law case in either Provincial Court or Supreme Court, depending on the issues you need the court to decide.

You MUST Go to Supreme Court For:



- A divorce order
- Dividing family property and debts
- Adoption
- Setting aside, changing or enforcing an agreement dealing with property or debt
- Changing or varying a Supreme Court order
- Protecting your property or letting you stay in the family home
- Figuring out who the parents are if a child was conceived through assisted reproduction
- Appointing a trustee of children's property

You Can Go To EITHER Supreme or Provincial Court For Orders About:

- Child support
- Spousal support
- Parenting & parenting schedules
- Time with a child for someone who is not a parent or guardian
- If someone is moving with or without the child (relocation)
- Figuring out who the father of a child is
- Protection from family violence and abuse

You can't ask two courts to decide the same issue

For example, you can't apply for child support in both courts to see which gives you a better result.

You can resolve parenting and support in Provincial Court and then apply for a divorce order in Supreme Court.

If I Have a Choice, Which Court Should I Choose?

Generally, self-represented people find Provincial Court easier to navigate, but sometimes the stricter rules in Supreme Court can be helpful as they can help prevent misuse of the court process. If you aren't sure, get some legal advice.

Supreme Court	Provincial Court
More complex forms	Simpler forms
More formal	Less formal
Stricter rules	More flexible rules
Harder to navigate without a lawyer	More user-friendly for self reps
Evidence written for applications (affidavits)	Evidence can be written or spoken
Filing fees apply	No filing fees
Can award costs	Cannot award costs