

I don't have a lawyer. What do I need to prepare for the JCC?

- 1 **File and serve a Financial Statement** (Form F8), with all required attachments, at least 7 days before the JCC, if you have not already done so.
- 2 **Get a copy of the *Litigants' Guide to Judicial Case Conferences*** from the court registry or online. This guide explains what happens at the JCC.
- 3 **Make a list of the issues** that you and the other person disagree on, and think about possible ways to resolve them.
- 4 Consider if there are any **procedural steps** you would like to ask for, for example, deadlines to exchange a list of documents.

Safety Note

If you have safety concerns, it is important you tell the court registry staff ahead of time so they can make arrangements. You can also contact the sheriff's department at the registry directly.

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.

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Justice Education Society

JUDICIAL CASE CONFERENCE (JCC)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

www.familylawinbc.ca



A **Judicial Case Conference (JCC)** is a 90-minute private meeting in the Supreme Court between you, the other person, your lawyers (if you have them), and a judge or associate judge. The judge helps you try to reach an agreement.

How do I book a JCC?

- 1 Check when the other person (or their lawyer) is available.
- 2 Book your JCC online at: www.bccourts.ca/supreme_court/scheduling/
- 3 Complete, file, and serve the Notice of Judicial Case Conference (Form F19).
- 4 Complete, swear or affirm, and file an Affidavit of Ordinary Service (Form F16) after step 3.

Time limits



You must file and serve the Notice of Judicial Case Conference at least **30 days before your JCC**.

Do I have to attend a JCC?

You **must** attend a JCC before either of you can apply for an order. There are some exceptions, for example, if you need to protect your property.

You can apply to be excused from having a JCC if you think it is too soon, if it would be unfair, or if it would be dangerous to you.

To apply to be excused complete, file and serve a **Requisition in Form F18.1**.

NOTE



- You **must** attend the JCC unless the court excuses you.
- If you don't show up, the court can go ahead without you, make orders, and order you to pay the other side's costs.

What happens at a JCC?

The judge or associate judge will ask you and the other person about the issues, what you agree, and don't agree on.

The judge or associate judge won't be wearing robes.

Will a final decision be made?

No. The judge or associate judge can only make orders that both people agree to. They may make procedural orders that set out the next steps, like document disclosure, and timelines for your case.

Can I bring a support person?



Ask the judge or associate judge for permission to have a support person with you at the beginning of the conference.

They will ask if the other person objects. If your ex spouse does not agree to the person being there, it is less likely it will be allowed. The judge or associate judge has the final say. The support person can wait outside the court room.

A JCC can save **time, money, and stress**, especially if it helps settle some or all of your case.

