



nelson
CARES
society



The Advocacy Centre

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advocacycentre@nelsoncares.ca

West Kootenay Family Law Resources

Legal Aid (Legal Services Society)

It may be possible to get a lawyer for your case, depending on the type of problem. You must be financially eligible. It is often best to apply even if you are not sure you will be accepted. You must describe the problem and provide documents. Make sure to mention any significant barriers to representing yourself.

Problems that may be covered include:

- custody, if there is a current risk of violence to child or parent
- custody, if there is a current, demonstrable risk the child could be removed from BC
- need for a restraining order (violence)
- access, if access is being totally denied for a prolonged period
- child support, only in rare circumstances

To apply in person: Friday only, in Nelson only, 514 Vernon St. #203 (above Post Office)

To apply by phone: Cranbrook office: 1-877-426-4066
Vancouver office: use Enquiry BC, 1-800-663-7867,
ask for Vancouver legal aid office

Family LawLINE 1-866-577-2525 (Legal Services Society)

- brief “next step” advice by phone from a lawyer
- must be financially eligible and depends on nature of family law problem
- free

Pro Bono Lawyer (Access Pro Bono): 1-877-762-6664, or 352-5777

- free ½ hour of advice from lawyer about your problem
- at Advocacy Centre, approximately once a month, on Thursdays

Advocacy Centre: 352-5777, 608-0589, or 1-877-352-5777

- no legal advice; only legal information
- advocates and specialized victim assistance worker
- free

Family Law Legal Hotline: 1-877-386-4333 (BC Families in Transition)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-4:30pm
- no legal advice; only legal information
- free

Lawyer Referral Service: 1-800-663-1919

- \$25 for ½ hour of advice from a lawyer
- call the number to get a list of local lawyers who provide this service

Family Justice Counsellor 354-6433, or 1-888-526-2229 (Nelson)

- will do some mediation
- will not help where there is violence or power imbalance
- cannot help where the parties cannot or will not agree about anything
- will write up agreements for people and file them in Family Court
- free
- serves entire West Kootenays, but you must go there; does not travel
- Kelowna 1-888-227-7734; Penticton 1-888-201-0045;
- Cranbrook 1-888-518-8822

Duty Counsel (Legal Services Society)

- in Provincial (Family) Court only
- a lawyer who will “stand up” for you on just that day, in court
- go early to talk with the duty counsel lawyer before court starts
- will not represent you in future, unless you make that arrangement with them separately
- free

Parenting After Separation

- free, 3-hour information session for parents
- includes general legal information, but no legal advice about your own case
- sometimes required before you can go to court
- For West Kootenays, register through The Advocacy Centre, 250-352-5777
- For other areas of BC, call Enquiry BC, 1-800-663-7867 and ask for the nearest Family Justice Centre

Websites

- Legal Services Family Law Website – www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca
- JP Boyd’s BC Family Law Resource – www.bcfamilylawresource.com