



nelson
CARES
society



The Advocacy Centre

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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

Apply by phone to local representative:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am-2:30pm: 1-866-368-9171

Apply in person to local representative:

Monday & Wednesday, 9:30am-3:30pm – William Westcott Law Office 1402 Bay Ave, Trail

OR

Apply by calling the province-wide call centre: 1-866-577-2525

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

- up to 6 hours of free legal advice by phone; Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9:30am-3pm; Wed 9:30am-2:30pm
- must be financially eligible and depends on nature of family law problem
- free

Pro Bono Lawyer (Access Pro Bono): 1-877-762-6664, or 250-364-2326 (Trail)

- free ½ hour of advice from lawyer about your problem
- must make an appointment

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

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

2Lawyer 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 250-354-6433, or 1-888-526-2229 (Nelson)

- mediation for parenting arrangements and child support
- 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 or court orders for people so that they can file them in 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; Nelson 1-888-526-2229

Duty Counsel (Legal Services Society)

- in Provincial (Family) Court only; generally accessible only on family court remand day
- a lawyer who will “stand up” for you on some matters in court -- but just on that day
- will not represent you in future, unless you make that arrangement with them separately
- will not do document preparation but might review documents you have prepared
- free (this resource is meant for people who cannot afford their own lawyer)
- Tip - Please bring documents related to your hearing with you

Parenting After Separation (<http://familieschange.ca/>)

- free online course for parents
- general tips legal information for separating parents

Websites

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