

Navigating the Family Justice System

Workshops for Self-Represented Family Law Litigants



ARE YOU HANDLING YOUR OWN FAMILY LAW MATTER?

Do you need information about court forms and procedures?

Consider taking a workshop to help you feel more confident as you navigate the family justice system

www.familylawnb.ca

What topics do the workshops cover?

• Changing A Child Support Order

This workshop provides information for individuals who wish to change an existing child support order or agreement because of a change in circumstances. The workshop explains the steps for completing forms, preparing affidavits and financial statement and creating the Record on Motion.

• Doing Your Own Divorce

This workshop helps individuals apply for an uncontested divorce once they have settled all their family law matters, such as custody, support and marital property division. The presenter will review the steps and procedures for obtaining a divorce by Affidavit of Evidence. You will learn how and when to file the Petition, serve documents, obtain proof of service, prepare your Trial Record and request your Divorce Certificate.

• Preparing for a 'family court hearing'

This workshop helps individuals who must attend a court hearing in the Court of Queen's Bench, Family Division. You will get an overview of the courtroom, tips for preparing your case, information about what happens the day of the hearing, tips for the courtroom and how to present evidence.

• Separation: Legal Considerations

This workshop informs individuals who are at the early stages of separation and divorce learn about their options for getting help, resolving family law matters and staying out of court. You will get a brief overview of the various family law issues that need to be addressed, along with a description of the different types of custody and access and how child support is calculated.

• Miscellaneous

Other family law topics may be offered from time to time.

Who should take a family law workshop?

If you have decided to use self-help options for some, or all, of your family law matters, such as an uncontested divorce or a child support variation, you should consider taking a workshop. The Court holds people representing themselves to the same standard as lawyers who are representing clients. It is important to educate yourself on the rules of court and the procedures for handling these matters correctly.

These workshops are not intended for people who have high conflict, contested family law matters. These individuals will need to have a lawyer. However, increasing the competencies of people with less complex family law issues is one small way of enhancing access to the justice system.

What will I learn at a family law workshop?

You will learn the general requirements for starting a family law action, how to complete and file court forms, arrange service of documents on the other party, prepare an affidavit, file a trial record, and so on. You will also learn the importance of knowing and respecting time lines. Although court procedure can be complicated, after taking the workshop, you should feel more confident about navigating the family justice system.

You will receive an information package that includes appropriate self-help guides, forms and a wealth of family law resources. You will also get a "certificate of participation".

For more information about these workshops call:
1-888-236-2444

Did you know...nearly 40% of individuals in family law cases before the Court of Queen's Bench: Family Division do not have a lawyer? These individuals are referred to as "self-represented".

Will the lawyers giving the workshops offer legal advice?

No, the workshop presenters will not offer legal advice. Participants attending workshops will sign a waiver acknowledging this. Anyone seeking advice on his or her specific situation must consult a lawyer outside of the workshop.

Where are workshops offered?

The goal is to offer workshops in as many locations around the province on a regular basis. Tentative workshop locations include:

Bathurst	Campbellton	Edmundston
Fredericton	Grand Falls	Miramichi
Moncton	Oromocto	Saint John
St. Stephen	Sussex	Tracadie-Sheila
Woodstock		

For more information on upcoming workshops, see the online schedule at: www.familylawnb.ca. Check back often, we update it frequently as classes are confirmed.

Is there a fee to register for a workshop?

Often times the workshops are free. However, if you take the divorce or child support workshop there may be a \$20 fee to cover the cost of the self-help guide that you will need.

Who is responsible for the delivery of these workshops?

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB) created the workshop presentations and set up the provincial framework. Many family law lawyers across New Brunswick have volunteered to deliver workshops on a regular basis in their regions. Students from the pro bono law students programs at both the University of New Brunswick and the Université de Moncton are also participating.

Venues/Host Agencies:

PLEIS-NB wishes to thank and acknowledge the venue partners, community support and host agencies who have donated their time and valuable spaces for holding these workshops:

- New Brunswick Public Library Service
- UNB Law School
- Madawaska/Victoria Family Resource Centre
- Milltown Elementary School
- NBCC/CCNB
- Gagetown Military Family Resource Centre
- Family Violence Prevention Networks (various)
- Maison Notre Dame House
- Rotary Club (Campbellton and Chatham)
- Coalition Against Abuse in Relationships, Inc.
- Family Violence Outreach (various)
- Fundy Region Transition House
- Services à la Famille de la Péninsule

Workshops sponsored by:



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Building a better foundation for justice in Ontario

Access to Justice Fund