



Provincial Court of British Columbia

The Provincial Court deals with the family matters listed below under various British Columbia laws.

Parenting arrangements and support

The Court helps separated couples to agree on parenting arrangements and financial support under the *Family Law Act*. Judges conduct hearings and make decisions when a couple cannot agree. Judges can also make protection orders to protect at-risk family members from family violence.

The Provincial Court does not make orders under the *Divorce Act*. This is a federal law that only applies to married spouses. In BC, only the BC Supreme Court deals with divorce.

[Family Law Act](#)

[Provincial Court Family Rules](#)

[FAM 05 Guardianship Applications When There Is An Existing Order](#)

[BC Supreme Court Online Help Guide](#)

Child protection

The Court conducts hearings to decide whether parents' care of a child should be supervised by a social worker or whether the child must be removed from their parents' care because of abuse or neglect, under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. They also conduct family case conferences to help families and social workers agree on what is necessary to reunite the family.

[Child, Family and Community Service Act](#)

[Provincial Court \(Child, Family and Community Service Act\) Rules](#)

Enforcement of support orders

The Court makes orders to collect unpaid child and spousal support under the *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act*.

[Family Maintenance Enforcement Act](#)

[Provincial Court Family Rules](#)

Interjurisdictional support orders

The Court makes orders about child and spousal support where the parties live in different jurisdictions (provinces, states and countries) under the *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act*.

[Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act \(including Hague Convention on Child and Family Support provisions\)](#)

[Provincial Court Family Rules](#)

Adult guardianship

The Court makes orders to protect abused or neglected adults who are unable to seek assistance for themselves due to illness, injury or some other condition under the *Adult Guardianship Act*.

[Adult Guardianship Act](#)

[Provincial Court \(Adult Guardianship\) Rules](#)

Child wrongly removed to or retained in another country (Hague Convention)

Both the Provincial Court and the BC Supreme Court can hear applications regarding the return of a child believed to have been wrongfully removed or retained under the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*.

[FAM 04 Procedural Protocol - Return Applications under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction](#)

[International Child Abductions: A Guide for affected parents \(Government of Canada\)](#)

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