



THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Effective Date: 23 February 2015

FAM 02

PRACTICE DIRECTION

**SEARCHING A REGISTRY FILE
RULE 20(10) PROVINCIAL COURT (FAMILY) RULES**

Purpose

To clarify the meaning of “a lawyer” under Rule 20(10) of the *Provincial Court (Family) Rules*.

Application

This practice direction applies to all court registries in the Province.

Directions

1. Under Rule 20(10)¹ “a lawyer” includes an articling student acting for a party or an articling student acting as agent for a party’s lawyer.

¹ **Rule 20 (10) Who can search files**

No one is entitled to search a registry file respecting an application under the *Family Law Act*, or a filed agreement or an application under the *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act* except

- (a) a party,
- (b) a lawyer whether or not a lawyer of a party,
- (c) a person who is named in the application as a respondent or who is named as a party to the agreement, as the case may be,
- (d) a family justice counsellor,
- (e) a person authorized by a judge or
- (f) a person authorized in writing by a party or a party’s lawyer.

History of Practice Direction

- Original practice direction dated July 24, 2002.
- Amended practice direction dated February 23, 2015 (changes to wording and formatting only).
- January 8, 2020: Housekeeping update to remove “duration” section as contained information duplicated in “History of Practice Direction” section.

I make this practice direction pursuant to my authority under the *Provincial Court Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 379 and Rule 20(13) of the *Provincial Court (Family) Rules*, B.C. Reg. 417/98.

Thomas J. Crabtree
Chief Judge
Provincial Court of British Columbia

Expired
May 17, 2021