

Mandatory Parenting After Separation Program Provincial Court Practice Directions Regulation

Registries and commencement

Commencing January 2, 2003, the Port Coquitlam Registry will be considered a "designated registry" for the purposes of Rule 21 of the *Provincial Court (Family) Rules*, B.C. Reg. 417/98 [as amended by B.C. Reg. 102/2001]. The Port Coquitlam Registry will then join nine other Provincial Court registries where parties to certain cases under the *Family Relations Act* must be referred to a three-hour Parenting After Separation Program (the Program) operated by the Family Justice Services Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General. The registries that will then be covered by this requirement are:

1. Abbotsford
2. Kamloops
3. Kelowna
4. Nanaimo
5. New Westminster
6. Port Coquitlam
7. Prince George
8. Surrey
9. Vancouver (Robson Square)
10. Victoria

While the Burnaby Registry is included as a "designated registry" in the *Rules*, that Registry is not listed above since the Burnaby Courthouse is no longer in operation.

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to Rule 20(13) of the *Rules* and section 2 of the *Provincial Court Practice Directions Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 188/98.

Scheduling

In all circumstances and to the extent possible, Judicial Case Managers will attempt to schedule the cases in the same time frame as if the parties had not attended the Program.

As some Provincial Court registries are "family justice registries" under the *Provincial Court (Family) Rules*, certain applicants in those registries are required, unless exempted, to meet with a family justice counselor before seeking referral to a judge. In the family justice registries where this Practice Directive applies attendance at the Program should, where possible, occur prior to the meeting with a family justice counselor.

Dated the 20th day of December, 2002

Carol Baird Ellan
Chief Judge