

Parent Information

Parents Helping Children

The Parent Information Program is for parents involved in a proceeding before the Family Court. The program helps you to support your children during the process. It helps you to identify and practice ways to keep children from getting caught in the middle.

Goals

The goals of the Parent Information Program are:

- To increase parents' awareness of the impact of parental conflict on children
- To improve communication between parents about their children's needs
- To provide new ways to avoid placing children in the middle of issues between their parents

When and Where

Sessions will take place on scheduled days or evenings, at the Family Court locations listed on the back of this page. A court staff member will tell you, either by mail or in person, of the date and time of the sessions you are scheduled to attend. We try to accommodate work and family commitments.

Common Questions

Will my ex-partner be in the same session as me?

No. The sessions are scheduled to ensure that you will not attend the same session as your ex-partner.

Do I have to attend the session?

No, but your attendance is strongly recommended by the courts. When you complete the program, you will be awarded a certificate and the court will be notified of your attendance. If you don't attend, that fact will be noted in the court file. The judge may ask you why you did not attend.

What will happen at the session?

You will get information about options for resolving disputes and the effects of parental conflict on children. You will also discuss children's experience of separation and divorce, learn techniques for dealing with conflict situations, and learn ways to avoid placing your children in the middle.

Do I bring my children to the sessions?

No.

If an emergency arises and I can't attend the session, who should I contact?

Call the Family Court immediately and inform the court.

Can a friend or family member come to the session with me?

Not normally. The session is to help you and your former partner with the issues you are facing.

Will I be asked for personal information about my situation?

No. You will not have to talk about your situation. The session will focus on videos and handouts. But you will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about representing yourself in court visit the Department of Justice website at <www.gov.ns.ca/just/repselfmain.htm>. For more information about the courts of Nova Scotia go to <www.courts.ns.ca>.

Amherst Justice Centre

Family Court
16 Church Street
Amherst, NS B4H 3A6
(902) 667-2256

Antigonish Justice Centre

Family Court
11 James Street
Antigonish, NS B2G 1R6
(902) 863-7312

Bridgewater Justice Centre

Family Court
599 King Street
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B3
(902) 543-4679

Kentville Justice Centre

Family Court
136 Exhibition Street
Kentville, NS B4N 4E5
(902) 679-6075

Pictou Justice Centre

Family Court
69 Water Street
Pictou, NS B0K1H0
(902) 485-7025

Truro Justice Centre

Family Court
540 Prince Street
Truro, NS B2N 1G1
(902) 893-5840

Yarmouth Justice Centre

Family Court
403 Main Street
Yarmouth, NS B5A 1G3
(902) 742-0550