

Family Law Information Centres & Family Justice Services

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Family Law for Legal Support Staff

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FAMILY LAW INFORMATION CENTRES & FAMILY JUSTICE SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The Family Law Information Centre (FLIC) is one program which is offered to Albertans through Family Justice Services (FJS). FJS is a group of diverse programs and services provided by the Alberta Justice, Court Services Division. Each FJS program is designed to assist separating or separated families with resolving their family law issues. The following is a brief discussion of the services offered by FJS with a focus on the services offered by FLIC.

THE FAMILY LAW INFORMATION CENTRE (FLIC)

The first FLIC offices opened in Calgary and Edmonton in May 1997 to assist the judiciary in the Court of Queen's Bench and the public with the coming into force of *the Federal Child Support Guidelines*. For many years, FLIC operated as a service of the Court of Queen's Bench. In 2006, FLIC became a part of FJS. Currently, FLIC is operating in six court house locations across Alberta under different names. FLICs are found:

- In the Edmonton Law Courts – in Edmonton FLIC is known as FLIC
- In the Calgary Court Centre – in Calgary FLIC is known as FJS
- In the Grande Prairie Court House – the Grande Prairie FLIC is known as the Law Information Centre
- In the Red Deer Court House – the Red Deer FLIC is known as FJS
- In the Medicine Hat Law Courts – the Medicine Hat FLIC is known as FJS
- In the Lethbridge Court House – the Lethbridge FLIC is known as FJS.

The primary purpose of the services offered by FLIC is to help meet the goal of Alberta Justice to provide access to justice to Albertans. At FLIC, our goals is to increase access to justice by providing a number of services designed to assist self-represented litigants (SRLs) with accessing the Court of Queen's Bench and The Provincial Court of Alberta.

FLIC key services include:

*Please note that all of the services outlined below are not necessarily offered at each FLIC location. If you need clarification regarding the services offered by the FLIC in your area, please call your closest FLIC office.

Information

At FLIC, we provide information to the public regarding family law matters under the **Divorce Act, Family Law Act, Federal Child Support Guidelines, Provincial Child Support Guidelines** and other provincial (family law) statutes. One of our main functions is to provide information to the public explaining the procedural requirements for making applications in the Court of Queen's Bench. In part, this is accomplished by providing plain language documents and procedure booklets to SRLs. The procedure booklets explain how to make or oppose a court application in a family law matter. Matters for which FLIC provides plain language documents include, but are not limited to:

- Child support and variation of child support
- Spousal/partner support and variation of spousal/partner support
- Reduction/cancellation of arrears
- Stay of enforcement
- Custody and access and variation of custody and access
- With and Without Notice Family Restraining Orders
- Queen's Bench Protection Orders on Notice
- Applications for substitutional service orders
- Applications for orders allowing service outside of Canada
- Applications under the **Change of Name Act**
- Applications under the **Extra-Provincial Enforcement of Custody Orders Act**

FLICs also provide assistance to the public by providing legal information on family law issues and by providing referrals to other service providers such as other FJS programs, Legal Aid, and Lawyer Referral.

It is important to note that the staff at the FLIC offices are Judicial Clerks who may or may not be supervised by a lawyer. FLIC staff and FLIC staff lawyers:

- CANNOT give people legal advice
- CANNOT assist SRLs with making complicated legal applications
- CANNOT fill out court forms for people

At this time, FLIC staff are only able to provide limited information and procedural assistance with matrimonial property and common law property issues due to the complexity of these issues.