



Type of law:
FAMILY LAW

A 2020 Alberta Guide to the Law

Divorce & Division of Family Property



Student Legal Services
of Edmonton



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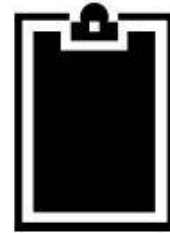
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Getting a Divorce

The Divorce Act



3



Choose your province

To get a divorce in AB you, or your spouse, must have been ordinarily resident here for 1 year



Choose a ground for divorce

There are 3 grounds for divorce in AB: separation for 1+ year, adultery, or cruelty



Start with a Statement of Claim for Divorce

File this document at the Courthouse and have it served on your spouse



Receive your Divorce Judgment

Once it is approved, the Justice will sign the Divorce Judgment and send it back to you



File the remaining documents

Depending on your spouse's response you will need to file more paperwork that will be looked over by a Justice



Wait for a response

Your spouse has 20 days (if they are in AB) to respond to your claim

Wait 31 days

Get your Divorce Certificate

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DIVORCE

I AM THINKING OF GETTING A DIVORCE, WHAT'S FIRST?

If you and your spouse decide to separate, there is no need to start divorce proceedings right away. Because divorce changes your rights and responsibilities as they relate to your spouse, you should consider the matter seriously and speak to someone who may be able to go over your options with you, for example a professional counsellor, a lawyer, or an employee with Family Justice Services.



Spouses often choose to remain separated for a period of time before they start the divorce process. Time apart may give the two of you a chance to work out some of your concerns.

Choosing to separate without getting a divorce right away does not mean that you cannot deal with child support, custody, property, or spousal support right away. You can apply for court orders regarding these matters under the *Family Law Act* and the *Family Property Act*. These orders may remain valid even after you file for divorce, as they are absorbed into the divorce proceedings. These orders can be varied through the divorce proceedings, or even after.

It is possible to get orders which can be used during the period of time between when you separate and when you choose whether to divorce or to get back together (reconcile). You can apply for these under the *Alberta Family Law Act*.

CAN I GET A DIVORCE?

If you do choose to divorce, then you will follow the process from the *Divorce Act*, which is the federal law that deals with how divorces can occur throughout Canada. In the *Divorce Act*, there is only one official reason for a divorce: marriage breakdown. There are three ways that marriage breakdown can happen:

1. Separation;
2. Adultery; or
3. Cruelty.

1. Separation



You and your spouse must have lived **separate and apart** for at least one year prior to a Divorce Judgment. The Divorce Action may be started before the one-year period has ended, which means that you can file all your paperwork during that year, but

must still wait the full year before the Divorce Judgment will be granted. This is the document that finalizes your divorce and allows you to re-marry.

In many cases, during a separation spouses will live in two different places; however, this is not required. Due to financial or other family circumstances, spouses may decide to reside in the same home during the year of separation.

It is possible to live separate and apart even though both spouses live under the same roof if:

- a. They sleep in separate bedrooms;
- b. There is little or no communication between them;
- c. They do not have sexual relations with each other;
- d. They do not perform domestic services (i.e. cooking or cleaning) for each other unless there is a contract for those services;
- e. They eat their meals separately; and/or
- f. They do not share any social or recreational activities.

This list is not complete because every separation is different, but the idea is that you are living as roommates rather than as spouses.

Reconciliation

A spouse who is seeking a divorce based on a one-year separation may reconcile (get back together) with their spouse without disrupting the one year time period as long as they are back together for **no longer than 90 days**.



If the reconciliation lasts longer than 90 days, the one-year separation period will be interrupted and the spouses will no longer have grounds for divorce. If this occurs, the separation period will have to begin again, and the spouses will have to wait another 12 months from the date of their final separation before being divorced.

2. Adultery

The law defines adultery as an event when a spouse is unfaithful by engaging in intimate relations with a third party during the marriage. The unfaithful spouse cannot file for divorce on the grounds of their own adultery. This means that you cannot say that you cheated and argue that this should allow you to get a divorce.



If you choose to use adultery as your grounds for divorce, it must be proven in the Court of Queen's Bench to a Justice. Normally, it will be very difficult, expensive and time-consuming to

prove the other spouse's adultery, unless the adulterer is willing to admit to their infidelity in a sworn court document.

If you are using adultery as the reason you are getting a divorce, you do not have to wait a year before completing the divorce proceedings. However, the Justice may decide to deny the divorce if you have either encouraged or forgiven your spouse's adultery. An example of this is where the adultery occurred a number of years ago, and since then you have reconciled. Generally, Courts will say that the adultery must be the reason for getting a divorce.

3. Cruelty

The third ground for divorce is physical or mental cruelty. Cruelty needs to happen only once before a spouse may apply for a divorce. However, in order to qualify as the reason for divorce, the law says that the other spouse's cruelty must be so severe that it makes living together intolerable.

Examples of mental cruelty include a spouse consistently coming home drunk, constant verbal abuse, or excessive drug use. Only the victim spouse can file for divorce. Like adultery, cruelty must be proven, and it is normally very difficult to do.

If you are using cruelty as the reason you are getting a divorce, you do not have to wait a year before completing the divorce proceedings.



It is highly recommended that anyone who is filing for divorce on the grounds of either cruelty or adultery consult with a lawyer before starting divorce proceedings. These grounds are difficult, time consuming and expensive to prove. It is often better to start the divorce proceedings (filing all of the required paperwork) and then just wait the full year of separation to get your divorce judgment.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN A DIVORCE?

1. A divorce is started with a document called a "Statement of Claim for Divorce." If you are the person starting the divorce, you will be the Plaintiff and your spouse will be the Defendant. If your spouse starts the divorce, he or she is the Plaintiff and you are the Defendant. You can get these documents online at the Alberta Courts website (<https://albertacourts.ca/qb/areas-of-law/family/divorce-forms>) or at the Edmonton Resolution Support Centre in the John E. Brownlee Building (Room 8124, 8th Floor, 10365 97 Street NW, Edmonton).
2. Once the Statement of Claim for Divorce is completed, it must be signed and taken to the Courthouse. You should have three copies of all of your forms whenever you go to

the Courthouse: one copy for yourself, one for the other party, and the original copy for the Court.

3. Once the Statement of Claim for Divorce is filed at the Courthouse, it must be “served” on the Defendant (your spouse). This means that it must be personally delivered to the



Defendant. Please note that the Statement of Claim MUST be delivered to the Defendant by someone OTHER than you. This can be a friend, family member, or a professional process server that you can hire to serve documents for you. If it will be too difficult or impossible to serve the Defendant personally, you can ask the Court for an Order for Substitutional Service which will allow you to serve them in a different way. As well, if the Defendant lives outside of Canada, you will need to ask the Court for an Order for Service Ex Juris to serve them outside of Canada.

4. After service of the Statement of Claim, the Defendant has 20 days (one month if he or she is out of province but still in Canada, and two months if outside of Canada) to dispute the Statement of Claim. If the Defendant does not file a dispute (Statement of Defence), then you can go on with the other forms. If you are using one year of separation as your grounds for divorce, make sure that one year has passed before moving on to this step. If the Defendant does not respond within the appropriate time period, the Plaintiff may file the sworn Affidavit of Service (including a photo of the defendant), Noting in Default, Request for Divorce, Affidavit of Applicant, and a proposed Divorce Judgment. Your affidavit should include:

- a. Your original Marriage Certificate;
- b. A copy of any orders or agreements pertaining to your divorce.



If you have children you should also include Child Support Data Sheets, a Parenting After Separation Certificate or Exemption Form, and a Divorce Judgment that includes arrangements for the children.

Note: If you do not have your Marriage Certificate, you can order it from the Department of Vital Statistics. In Edmonton and area, you may call [780] 427-7013 or go to any Registry Agent.

5. The Clerk will then give the divorce application (called a ‘desk divorce’) to a Justice to review. Once the Justice is satisfied with the documents and evidence presented, he or she will sign the Divorce Judgment. The Judgment will then be returned to the Clerk, who will mail one copy each to the Plaintiff and the Defendant at the addresses given in the Request for Divorce. This process usually takes 4-6 weeks.

6. Thirty-one days after the Divorce Judgment has been signed, it becomes final and the parties can make a request for a Certificate of Divorce from the Courthouse, which is the final document of the divorce action. This is an important document for both the Plaintiff and Defendant to keep in a safe place because it proves that they are no longer married. You will need this certificate if you want to remarry.

Other steps may be needed if the Defendant lives outside of Canada, if the Defendant cannot be located, or if the Plaintiff is asking for support or other costs.

WHAT ARE SOME REASONS WHY A JUSTICE MAY NOT LET YOU GET A DIVORCE?

There are situations where a Justice may not let you get a divorce. These include:

1. Spouses who intentionally mislead the Court will not be allowed to divorce.

An example would be two spouses agreeing to say that they have been separated for one year when in fact they have only been separated for one month.



2. You and your spouse have children for whom you have not worked out a parenting arrangement or child support.

The Justice must be satisfied that reasonable arrangements have been made to take care of and support the children financially after the divorce. What is reasonable will depend on each couple's circumstances, but the Justice will decide if the arrangements that have been made are fair. Generally, child support guidelines apply unless a judge finds some other arrangement is more reasonable.

It is best to ensure that issues such as child support are dealt with before applying for your divorce. If you do not do so, you may have to resubmit your desk divorce application after having resolved any issues that were found.

CAN I GET A DIVORCE IN ALBERTA?

Under the *Divorce Act*, one spouse must be “ordinarily resident” in Alberta. This means you or your spouse must have lived in Alberta for one year immediately prior to filing the Statement of Claim.

DOES IT MATTER WHERE I WAS MARRIED?

It is possible to get divorced in Alberta even if you were not married here. If you were married outside of Canada, the Court will need some proof that the marriage was valid according to the law of that country. If this applies to you, you will need to prove the marriage ‘in solemn form’ (valid). If you were married in a Canadian province other than Alberta, a



marriage certificate issued by the government of that province will be sufficient proof of marriage. There is a specific paragraph for this to add to the Affidavit of Applicant. Please remember that you must still meet the “ordinarily resident” requirement (lived in Alberta for one year before your divorce action) no matter where you were married.

WHAT IF I CANNOT FIND MY SPOUSE?

You must make all reasonable efforts to locate your spouse, such as calling relatives, mutual friends or their last known workplace, as well as checking the telephone directory, Internet, Facebook and so on. If you absolutely cannot find your spouse, then you may be allowed to apply to the Court for an ‘Order for Substitutional Service.’ This order will give you an alternate way to notify your spouse that you have filed for divorce. It would be best to discuss your options with a lawyer.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?



The length of time from start to finish depends upon how quickly you finish the paperwork, how easy it is to locate and serve your spouse, and how many complications there are in the case. An uncontested divorce will generally take between four months and a year. A contested divorce could take several years.

THE WAITING PERIOD

Several things might happen during the 31 day waiting period from the date of the Divorce Judgment to the date that you can apply for the Certificate of Divorce:

1. You and your spouse might reconcile. If so, you should apply to set aside the Divorce Judgment. You would then once again be considered married to each other.
2. One spouse might appeal the Divorce Judgment. If so, no Certificate of Divorce can be issued.

NOTE: An appeal cannot be started after the Certificate of Divorce has been issued.

3. An application might be made by anyone to set aside the Divorce Judgment because it was obtained as a result of fraud. That application would have to be finished before a Certificate of Divorce could be issued.

The 31 day waiting period may be waived if there are special circumstances that make it in the public interest to grant the divorce earlier. An example of special circumstances would be one spouse wanting to remarry within a short period of time due to the impending birth of a child.

Normally, none of these occur, and the Certificate of Divorce is granted 31 days after the Divorce Judgment, on application to the Clerk of the Court.

WHAT IF I HAVE CHILDREN?



There must be arrangements made for children under 18 whenever you are going through a divorce proceeding. These are known as Corollary Relief Orders.

Corollary Relief Orders are orders dealing with spousal support, child support, parenting, and access. Corollary Relief Orders can be made for a limited time (called an 'Interim Order') or they can be made as a final Order. They can be made after separation but before divorce finalization, or during the divorce process.

Note: If there are children, a Justice must see that there have been arrangements made for their support before granting a divorce judgment.

The Parenting After Separation Seminar

If you and your spouse have children under age 16, you **MUST** attend the *Parenting After Separation Seminar* before making any application to the court dealing with your children, or before applying for a Divorce Judgment. After completing the course, parents will receive a certificate of completion that you must file with the Courts.

The *Parenting After Separation* seminar is led by a legal professional and a mental health professional and is a **FREE** 6 hour seminar. If you are in this situation, the phone number to register is (780) 427-8343. You can also register for an online course at the Alberta Courts website (<http://pas.albertacourts.ab.ca>). The online course can be completed in 3 hours.

Focus On Communication In Separation (FOCIS) Course



The *Focus on Communication in Separation (FOCIS) Course* is an optional **FREE** 6-hour course. It is designed for parents of young children who are experiencing high levels of conflict. The purpose of the course is to teach parents how to better communicate in order to parent their children effectively after separation or divorce.

The FOCIS Course is strongly recommended for parents who are having problems communicating. For more information, contact Alberta Justice Family Mediation Services at 780-427-8329. In Edmonton, call (780) 644-5092 to register for the FOCIS course.

DIVISION OF FAMILY PROPERTY

PROPERTY AND RELATIONSHIPS

It is possible for spouses to be granted a Divorce Judgment before they have dealt with the division of family property. This includes all of the property that they have acquired during their married or partnered life. However, most of the time, family property will be divided between the partners during the separation proceedings, either through an agreement or by following a Court Order.

Some common property types are:

- The shared family home;
- Household goods (this includes almost all personal property used by family members);
- R.R.S.Ps. and pensions;
- Business interests;
- Investments, savings, stocks, bonds;
- Cars;
- Other property purchased during the relationship or used for the partners' mutual benefit;
- Bank accounts, and Debt.



Property division for married or cohabiting couples is generally guided by the *Family Property Act*. Enacted on January 1st, 2020, the *FPA* is an amended version of the former *Matrimonial Property Act*. While the majority of the law remains the same, several significant amendments have been made.

The *FPA* makes it easier for married and unmarried couples alike to divide their property. Spouses and **adult interdependent partners** can apply for a family property order from the Courts in order to govern the division of their collective property. A divorced or separated partner has up to two years after the date of divorce or separation to initiate a property action.

ADULT INTERDEPENDENT PARTNERS

Adult Interdependent Partners (AIPs) are two people who have lived together in a relationship of interdependence:

- For at least three years; or
- Of some permanence (and fewer than three years) if the couple has a child; or

- Who have entered into an adult interdependent partnership agreement

A relationship of interdependence is when two people are not married to each other but:

- Share one another's lives
- Are emotionally committed to one another; and
- Function as an economic and domestic unit

NOTE: It is important to emphasize that while a marriage has a definitive start and end date, AIP relationships often do not. Partners often slide into AIP status over time, and there can be considerable disagreement when (or even if) the transition occurred. The *Family Property Act* does apply immediately from the date partners begin cohabitating – for example, if an unmarried couple has no children and their relationship ends after 2 years and 11 months, the *FPA* will not be held to apply. If you and your partner wish to become AIPs, it is best that you directly enter into an adult interdependent partnership agreement. The form to do so can be found at this link: https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2011_066.pdf

OBTAINING A FAMILY PROPERTY ORDER

To make a valid application under the *Family Property Act*, the person applying for the division of property must first show that:

- Both partners are living in Alberta, together or separately; **OR**
- The partners last lived together in Alberta; **OR**
- At the time of marriage, the parties were each living in Alberta but since they have gotten married, they have not established a joint residence in a province; **OR**
- The divorce was filed for and is being dealt with in Alberta; **OR**
- The divorce was finalized in Alberta.

Note: The person applying for the division of property under the *Family Property Act* does not need to be the person who started the divorce/separation proceedings.

Before a family property order can be finalized and enforced, the Court must see that:

- There is a Divorce Judgement; **OR**
- There is a declaration of nullity of marriage; **OR**
- There is a judgment of judicial separation; **OR**
- There is a Declaration of Irreconcilability made under the *Family Law Act*; **OR**
- The partners were living separate and apart for a minimum period of at least one year before the application is made
 - **HOWEVER**, if the partner applying for a family property order can show that the other partner is intentionally hiding or getting rid of property so that the property

can't be divided fairly between the partners, the required minimum period of one year can be waived

- o The one year period is not considered interrupted if the partners tried to live together for a period of 90 days or fewer in an attempt to reconcile
- o Living separate and apart does not necessarily mean that the partners live in separate homes. Partners can be living separate and apart under the same roof if they intend to be separated and, in a general sense, maintain a relationship similar to that of roommates and do not share their lives like an interdependent couple.

At times, spouses may obtain a family property order before they are granted a judgment of divorce or declaration of nullity but then they decide to try to work things out and move back in together. Also, adult interdependent partners may separate temporarily but then resume cohabitation in the pursuit of reconciliation. If they live together for more than 90 days in an attempt to work things out but are unable to do so and later separate again, an application can be made for another family property order.

Important Timelines

For married couples seeking a divorce, an application for the division of property **can be made** at the start of, or during court proceedings for a:

- Judgment of divorce;
- Declaration of nullity;
- Judgment of Judicial Separation; **or**
- A declaration of irreconcilability under the *Family Law Act*.

If a married couple or adult interdependent partners have separated but have not started any other court proceedings, they can still make an application for the “division of property”.

HOWEVER, an application for the division of property **cannot be made** if:

- **More than 2 years** have passed since a court has granted a:
 - o Judgment of divorce;
 - o Declaration of nullity;
 - o Judgment of Judicial Separation; **or**
 - o A declaration of irreconcilability under the *Family Law Act*; **OR**
- **More than 2 years** have passed since the partners separated; **OR**
- **More than 1 year** has passed since property was transferred to a third party in an attempt to keep the property from being fairly divided between the partners
 - o If more than a year has passed, the property that had been transferred cannot necessarily be pursued but an application can still be made to divide the remaining property.

DIVIDING PROPERTY

Generally, property division covers all property and debts owned by the partners, whether owned by just one of them or by both of them together. If a property is owned by a partner and a third party, the partner's portion of that property is still generally subject to division.

Division of property does not necessarily mean that the parties will get part ownership of each property. A Court can assign full ownership to one party but require that party to compensate the other party with cash or ownership of something else, or even order a sale of the property and divide the sale proceeds.

Property acquired during the relationship is usually, but not necessarily, divided equally. When and how it was obtained and maintained will determine how each individual property is divided. The Court will consider many things to determine how property should be divided, including:

- Non-financial contributions by each partner to the relationship and to the welfare of the family;
 - Eg. If one partner stays home to raise the children so that the other partner can pursue their career;
- Contributions, financial or non-financial, made by a partner to a property, business, farm, or other endeavor that is owned or operated by one or both of the partners, even if others share in the ownership or operation;
- The income, earning capacity, liabilities, obligations, property and other financial resources of each partner at the start of the relationship compared to what they are at the trial;
- The length of the marriage/relationship;
- Whether property was acquired after the partners began to live separate and apart;
- Whether there are any oral or written agreements regarding property;
- If a partner has disposed of some property;
- Prior distributions of property between the partners;
- Prior court orders regarding property; **and**
- Possible tax liabilities if property is transferred or sold.



The Court **will not** consider misconduct by a partner (for example adultery or domestic abuse), unless it relates to the improper use or sale of family property. An example of misconduct that the Court might factor in is a gambling addiction which dissipates the family property.

PROPERTY THAT CANNOT BE FULLY DIVIDED

The market value of a property at the time it was acquired or at the time of marriage/partnership (whichever is later) ("**exempt value**") is **not included** in the calculation of divisible property if the property was:

- A gift to one partner from a third party;
- Inherited by one partner;
- Acquired by one partner before the marriage;
- An award or settlement resulting from one partner suing a third party for damages;
- The result of an insurance payout to one partner for something that the other partner is not involved in or affected by; **OR**
- Acquired through the exchange of one of the above types of property or the funds from the sale of one of the above types of property.

Note: These exempt properties were intended to benefit only one of the partners when the property was acquired. If property was acquired for the benefit of both partners, then the exemption is not applied. Additionally, if an exemption could have been applied to a property but the property was then integrated into the partnership (or relationship?), part of the exemption might be lost.

If these properties have an increased market value at the time of trial compared to when they were first acquired, the value of the increase will be considered for division and distribution. Decreases in value will not be part of the division and distribution.

Note: If a property was sold or exchanged for something else, the exemption might be maintained, unless the money is mixed into the shared finances or for the benefit of the interdependent relationship, like buying a home. This requires 'tracing,' which is a complicated area of family property division and you should speak to a lawyer if you have any questions.

Property Outside Alberta

The *Family Property Act* deals with all property, no matter where it is located in the world. The Courts can consider and take into account foreign property in determining how Alberta property is to be divided and distributed.



AGREEMENTS REGARDING PROPERTY

The *Family Property Act* may not apply if the partners made agreements regarding how properties would be dealt with. If one or more agreements are made regarding some but not

all properties, then the *Family Property Act* still applies to property not included in the agreements.

For an agreement to be enforceable and exclude a property from a distribution under the *Family Property Act*, the agreement must:

- Be written;
- Describe the status, ownership, and manner of division of that property;
- Contain written acknowledgements from each partner that:
 - They understand what the agreement is for and what it means;
 - They understand that they are waiving certain rights under the *Family Property Act* regarding this property so that the agreement can be enforced;
 - They are entering the agreement voluntarily and without undue influence.

Note: Each party must make their acknowledgement in front of a lawyer who is not acting for the other party.

THE FAMILY HOME

“Family Home” can mean a number of different things. It can be:

- A house or part of a house
- A part of a business that is being used as a house,
- A mobile home,
- A condominium, or
- A suite.



The family home must be owned or leased by one or both partners and **must be occupied as the family home** (i.e. this does not include a summer cottage). It must be in Alberta, but it does not have to be in both partners' names.

EXCLUSIVE POSSESSION ORDERS

If one partner wants to live in the family home after separation, either alone or with children, one option is to ask the Court for an Order for Exclusive Possession. An Order for Exclusive Possession allows one partner to keep the other out of the house. It is given when partners cannot live together peacefully, but neither is willing to leave the home. A partner can also apply for an Order giving them exclusive use of household goods. “Household goods” is defined as personal property owned by at least one of the partners and used or enjoyed by either partner or the children - for transportation, household use, educational use, recreational use, social use or aesthetic purposes. Household goods include motor vehicles, furniture, and



appliances. The Court can make this order for any amount of time that the Court thinks is necessary.

An application for exclusive possession can be made without notice to the other partner ('ex parte'), if the Court finds that there is a potential danger to the applicant partner or to a child living in the home. If the Court does not believe that there is danger to the applicant or a child, then the other partner must be given notice about the application. A Court can grant an Order for Exclusive Possession even without a threat of danger present.

In granting the Order, the Court may do one or more of the following:

- Direct that a partner be given exclusive possession of the home (regardless of whose name the property is in);
- Direct that a partner be evicted from the family home;
- Stop a partner from attending at or going into the family home.

When deciding whether a possession Order will be granted, the Court can consider:

- Whether each partner can find and maintain another place to live;
- The needs of any children living in the home;
- The financial position of each partner;
- Property of each partner; and
- Any existing Court orders regarding child or partner support.



An Order for Exclusive Possession is not easy to get. The person applying for the Order must prove that the *Family Property Act* guidelines have been met and that there is good reason for the order (i.e. not that it is simply a matter of them not wanting to move out of the home because moving would be inconvenient).

An Exclusive Possession Order **does not change legal ownership of the property**. If the family home is owned by one or both of the partners, it is still considered family property that may be divided in the final Family Property Order.

Note: Under the *Family Property Act* the Court can only grant an Order to prevent a person from *entering or visiting the home* but this does not prevent the partners from contacting one another. If one partner is harassing the other and they want to prevent contact, they have other options such as an Emergency Protection Order or a Restraining Order.

PENSIONS

Pensions are considered to be property under the *Family Property Act*, but how they are divided depends on the type of pension. It is important to speak with the pension plan administrator. Withdrawing money from pensions and other retirement savings programs can have significant tax consequences.

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) has a program that allows separated or divorced couples to divide their Canada Pension Plan credits. It does not matter if only one of the partners had contributed to their CPP. However, the division of the pension is not allowed:

- When the total yearly pension income of one party is less than twice the basic exemption for income taxes;
- For any pension contributions made by a party before they turned 18 or after they reached 70 years old; **or**
- For any period where one of the parties is receiving benefits under the CPP or Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) other than their own pension (eg. Survivor's Pension, Disability Benefits).

NOTE: The division of pensions is a complex area of the law. It is highly recommended that you consult a lawyer regarding any questions or issues you may have in this area.

There are other factors to be considered before CPP credits can be divided. To apply for a division, you can access the online form at

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/fi-if/index.jsp?app=prfl&frm=isp1901&lang=eng>. You can also contact Service Canada for assistance and information regarding pension division.

WHO CAN I CALL FOR MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?

LEGAL RESOURCES

Student Legal Services – Family Law Project 11036 88 Ave NW Edmonton, AB T6G 0Z2	Ph: 780-492-8244 Admin: 780-492-2226 Fax: 780-492-7574
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The Family Law Project of Student Legal Services consists of law students who provide basic legal information on various topics in family law, such as divorce, separation, parenting time, child and spousal support ("maintenance"), matrimonial property, and adult interdependent relationships ("common law"). These caseworkers are able to provide free assistance to low income individuals and will work on your matter under the guidance of an advising lawyer. Additionally, the Family Law Project conducts a Do-Your-Own-Divorce Clinic every few months.

Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC) Telus House, South Tower Second Floor 10020 – 100 Street Edmonton, AB T5J 0N3	www.eclc.ca Ph: 780-702-1725
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Provides legal services for low-income Albertans in certain areas of family and civil law. These services include free legal information, referral, and legal education. ECLC may also be able to provide legal advice if you meet their eligibility criteria. Much of their legal information can be found on their website, as well as the time, dates, and locations of their public legal education programs. Additionally, ECLC has a fee waiver program if your income and action? Issue? fall within their guidelines.

Legal Aid Society of Alberta Revillon Building Suite 600 – 10320 102 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 4A1	Toll Free Ph: 1-866-845-3425
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Provides assistance through information, referrals, advice, and/or representation, depending on what your matter is and which eligibility guidelines you meet.

Lawyer Referral Service	Toll Free Ph: 1-800-661-1095
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Can help you find contact information for practicing lawyers who might be an appropriate lawyer for your matter. Generally, lawyers can provide a 30 minute consultation over the phone.

Edmonton Resolution Support Services	Ph: 780-415-0404
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Rm 8124, 8th Floor - John E Brownlee Building 10365 97 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5J 3W7	
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Edmonton Resolution Support Services provides various services to assist individuals dealing with family or civil matters. They have numerous free services, such as Family Court Counsellors, Family Mediation, Child Protection and Intervention Mediation, Civil Mediation, and assistance on Court Forms and Orders.

Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta (CPLEA) www.cplea.ca	Ph: 780-451-8764
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CPLEA provides detailed legal information online to the Alberta public on various areas of the law.

NOTE: They do not provide legal assistance or advice or answer specific legal questions.

Dial-a-Law http://clg.ab.ca/programs-services/dial-a-law/	Toll-Free Ph: 1-800-332-1091
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Dial-a-Law is provided by Calgary Legal Guidance for all Albertans. You can call the toll-free number to receive general information on a variety of legal topics. If you have access to a computer, you can go to their website and choose to either read or listen to the information.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Alberta Supports Centre (Various Locations) Edmonton Central Location 10242 105 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5J 3L5	Ph: 1-877-644-9992
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Assists individuals and families with accessing various financial, family, and social supports (Alberta Works and AISH).

Service Canada (Various Locations) Downtown Location: Main Floor Canada Place 9700 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 4C1	Ph: 1-800-622-6232
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Service Canada is a starting point for individuals seeking to access Federal government services and benefits, such as Employment Insurance and passports.

OTHER RESOURCES

Provincial Court Clerks – Family	Edmonton: 1-855-738-4747
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Clerks are able to assist in providing information for Provincial Court Family matters regarding judicial procedures, court appearances, trial dates, adjournments, outstanding warrants, summonses, subpoenas, witness fees and payment of fines. It is not their role to provide you with legal advice.

Edmonton Resolution Support Services 8th Floor - John E Brownlee Building 10365 97 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5J 3W7	Ph: 780-415-0404
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Provides various services to assist individuals dealing with a family or civil matter. They have numerous free services, such as Family Court Counsellors, Family Mediation, Child Protection and Intervention Mediation, Civil Mediation, and assistance on Court Forms and Orders.

Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP)	Ph: 310-0000 ext 780-422-5555 24h Tip Line: 310-0000 ext 780-401-8477
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A government agency that acts as a third party in child, spousal, and partner support transactions. It collects and enforces court-ordered support from the payor and forwards the amount to the recipient. Either the payor or recipient can register for MEP. To register, you need a court order before filling out and submitting specific forms, found on their website: https://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/mep/Pages/default.aspx

Emergency Protection Order Program	Ph: 780-422-9222 *If after business hours, contact local police*
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For those experiencing family violence and need immediate protection from further harm. This free program will provide help with risk assessments and safety plans, provide information and provide a lawyer for the purpose of obtaining an Emergency Protection Order (EPO). This lawyer cannot assist you with anything beyond the EPO.

Family Violence Info Line	General Info Line - 24 Hour Toll-Free Ph: 310-1818 (no area code) Emergency Financial Support: 1-866-644-5135 Family Violence and Tenancy Concerns: 1-877-644-9992 Sexual Assault Centers: 780-482-4357
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The Family Violence Info Line gives callers an opportunity to speak with trained staff regarding their situation and options.

The Family Centre, Edmonton #20, 9912-106 Street	Ph: 780-423-2831
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Edmonton, AB T5K 1C5	
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The Family Centre provides subsidized counselling services, parenting workshops and therapy sessions. They also offer translation services, family support services, and a safe visitation site for parents with supervised access to their children.