



# Family Duty Counsel

Family duty counsel are lawyers paid by Legal Aid BC to provide free legal advice to help with family law and child protection problems.

You have to qualify financially. Go to [legalaid.bc.ca/QualifyAdvice](https://legalaid.bc.ca/QualifyAdvice)

## We can

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- give you only verbal advice about your legal rights, obligations, and court and non-court procedures;
- review and help you prepare court documents;
- help you negotiate and settle issues;
- help you prepare or review consent orders or family agreements that can be filed in court;
- attend court with you to ask for an adjournment, an unopposed or consent order, or an emergency protection order, if appropriate;
- inform you on what to do when you go to court, and
- refer you to other resources.

## We can't

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- go to court for any contested trial or hearing with complicated issues;
- help you with complex property disputes, or give you tax advice;
- help you if you already have a lawyer;
- prepare your court documents;
- help you with legal problems outside of family or child protection law;
- serve or accept court documents for you; or
- become your lawyer while acting as duty counsel.