

COURT REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE PARENT INFORMATION PROGRAM:

FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

MANDATORY PARENT INFORMATION PROGRAM

The Government of Manitoba offers a supportive information program for families dealing with custody, access or private guardianship issues. You are required to take the "For the Sake of the Children" program if you are requesting or responding to requests for interim or final court orders for:

- child custody
- child access
- private guardianship

If you have filed a request for an interim or final order for custody, access or private guardianship, the court office will give you copies of this pamphlet. You or your lawyer must give a copy of the pamphlet to all other parties involved in the case, along with the documents requesting the order.

WHEN IS THE PROGRAM REQUIRED?

All parties must complete the program before a request is made for a hearing date in a case involving child custody, access, or private guardianship.

ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS TO MANDATORY ATTENDANCE?

Yes. Exceptions include:

- A person who is involved in a proceeding where:
 - the other party lives outside Manitoba
 - the parties are consenting to the order
 - the matter is unopposed
- The other party files satisfactory proof that they have attended the Manitoba program or a comparable program outside Manitoba within the previous two years.

HOW AND WHERE CAN I COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?

You must attend the program in person if you live in, or within 100 kilometres of, Winnipeg and Brandon.

You must attend in person, or view the electronic version of the program at a designated location, if you live in, or within 80 (all-weather roads) kilometres of:

- Dauphin
- Flin Flon
- Swan River
- The Pas
- Thompson

If you live farther outside of these regions, you can arrange with a program official to view the electronic version in a manner that the official deems appropriate.

WHAT IF I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND THE PROGRAM IN PERSON?

In certain cases of urgency or hardship, you may be able to view the electronic version of the program instead of attending in person. You can ask a program official for permission to take the program in this alternate format.

IS ANYONE EXEMPT FROM TAKING THE PROGRAM?

You are not required to take the program if you are applying to vary a custody, access or private guardianship order. You are only required to take the program if you are requesting or responding to requests for interim or final court orders for child custody, child access, or private guardianship.

HOW DO I PROVE I HAVE TAKEN THE PROGRAM?

You will receive an attendance certificate after completing the program. You or your lawyer must file the certificate with the court, as it is a prerequisite to appearing before a judge. It is best to file the certificate well in advance of any court hearing.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T TAKE THE PROGRAM?

The court may make an order that:

- requires you to attend the program
- requires you to pay costs
- stays or suspends the proceedings
- suspends your right to file documents
- refuses to consider the filed documents

For more information about where and when the program is available, contact:

PIPM@gov.mb.ca

FAMILY CONCILIATION - WINNIPEG

2nd Floor - 379 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0T9
Phone: 204-945-4257 or 204-945-2179
Toll free: 1-800-282-8069 ext. 4257

FAMILY CONCILIATION - BRANDON

Provincial Building
340 - 9th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 6C2
Phone: 204-726-6336
Toll free: 1-800-230-1885

FAMILY CONCILIATION - DAUPHIN

Provincial Building
27 - 2nd Avenue S.W.
Dauphin, MB R7N 3E5
Phone: 204-622-2035
Toll free: 1-866-355-3494

FAMILY CONCILIATION - FLIN FLON

Provincial Building
143 Main Street
Flin Flon, MB R8A 1K2
Phone: 204-687-1700
Toll free: 1-866-443-2291

FAMILY CONCILIATION - SWAN RIVER

Provincial Building
201 - 4th Avenue S.
Swan River, MB R0L 1Z0
Phone: 204-734-3491
Toll free: 1-888-269-6498

FAMILY CONCILIATION - THE PAS

Provincial Building
3rd Street & Ross Avenue
The Pas, MB R9A 1M4
Phone: 204-627-8311
Toll free: 1-866-443-2292

FAMILY CONCILIATION - THOMPSON

59 Elizabeth Drive
Thompson, MB R8N 1X4
Phone: 204-677-6570
Toll free: 1-866-677-6713

Website: www.manitoba.ca/fs/childfam/family_conciliation.html

Details about the requirement for program attendance are outlined in Court of Queen's Bench Rule 70.24.1. The rules are available in Manitoba's law libraries, at courthouses and online at <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/rules/qbr2e.php#70.24.1>.

You can also purchase a copy of the Court of Queen's Bench Rules from the Government of Manitoba Statutory Publications.

Call 204-945-3101 in Winnipeg or toll free 1-800-321-1203.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH
OF MANITOBA

PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA