

true north

a safe place for those impacted by abuse

COURT SUPPORT

At True North, we understand that the court process can be scary, confusing, and overwhelming. True North's Outreach Workers try to reduce these feelings of uncertainty with our Court Support program.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COURT PROCESS CAN BE SCARY, CONFUSING, AND OVERWHELMING.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

COURT SUPPORT IS:

- Information and referrals to legal resources
- Safety planning and emotional support during the court process
- An experienced, empathic ear that assists and helps you navigate the courthouse during court hearings (EPO applications & reviews, parenting order applications, etc.)
- Within Drumheller, Calgary, and Strathmore courts.



“— Just having someone to go with me to court, just the presence of someone who understood my situation, I felt much more secure in my decision and ability to stand up for my rights. —”
~ Outreach Client

True North makes every effort to support clients during the court process, depending on available resources and staff availability. We can also provide guidance over the phone and attend virtual hearings!

COURT SUPPORT IS NOT:

- Completing or deciphering legal documents
- Legal representation or advice

WE PROVIDE COURT SUPPORT AT:

Calgary Courthouse:

Provincial Court & Court of Queen's Bench
Calgary Courts Centre
601 5th Street SW., Calgary, AB T2P 5P7

Calgary Courts Parkade:

515 6th Ave SW., Calgary, AB. T2P 0Y3
1-855-738-4747

Strathmore Courthouse:

Circuit Court & Provincial Court
226 2 Ave., Strathmore, AB. T1P 0B3
1-403-934-2151

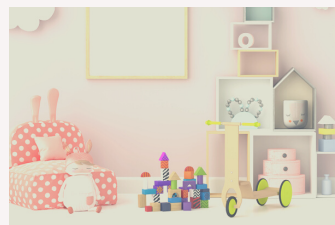
Drumheller Courthouse:

Provincial Court & Court of Queen's Bench
511 3 Ave., Drumheller, AB. T0J 0Y0
1-403-820-7300 (phone)
1-403-823-6073 (fax)

Child Support

Child support is financial payments made for the child(ren) from one guardian or parent to the other, as determined by government-established guidelines.

- Centre for Public Legal Education
Alberta, 2021-b



PARENTING ORDERS

Under Alberta law, both parents are deemed equal guardians unless specified by a court order. Parenting orders define who spends time with the child(ren) and who and how decisions are made for the child(ren).

Talk to a True North staff member for Parenting Order support. We can also help you create a safety plan for school and daycare routines!

Custody: Provides the parent(s) the legal right to make decisions and spend time with the child(ren).

Guardian: The person(s) responsible for the child's well-being who makes day-to-day decisions.

Contact: A non-guardian person(s), such as a grandparent, who spends time with the child(ren) but does not make decisions for them.

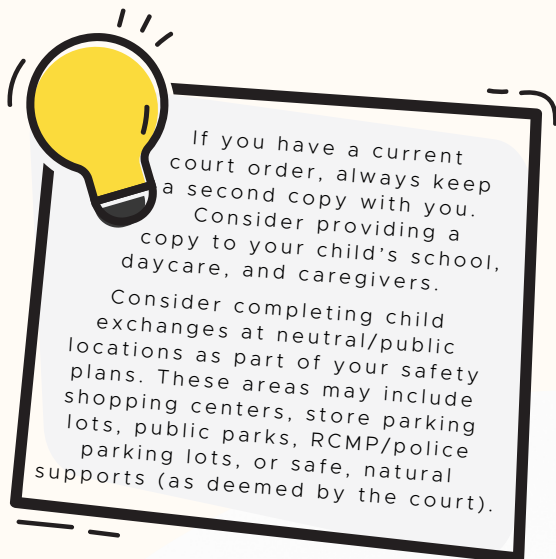
Access: Outlines the allotted time the child(ren) may spend with the parent without legal guardianship.

Joint Custody: Both parents have the legal right to make decisions (big and small) and spend time with the child(ren)

Sole Custody: One parent has the legal right to make decisions for the child in their custody

Interim Parenting Order: A temporary order that is put in place until the final parenting order is established (Calgary Legal Guidance, 2021).

*The Alberta Divorce Act & Family Law Acts
(Resolution Services, 2017)*



PROTECTION ORDERS

Protection orders help protect you and your child(ren) from unwanted contact.

There are various types of protection orders for different situations. Talk to a staff member to help you through the application process.



Always keep a copy of your protection order with you.

Consider providing copies of your protection order to your child(ren)'s school and daycare, and local police services.

ADDITIONAL PARENT RESOURCES

- Parenting After Separation eCourse: Free through the Resolution Services Learning Center
- Parenting After Separation for Families in High Conflict eCourse: Free through the Resolution Services Learning Center
- Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP): Collects & enforces supports such as child support
(Alberta Government, 2022-d)
- Duty Counsel (Legal Aid): Free legal representation & advice for Albertans who have not secured legal representation
(Pro Bono Law Alberta, 2022)
- Mediation Services: Confidential & informal meetings between parents whose aim is to come to an agreement; not legally binding
(Alberta Government, 2022-c)

TYPES OF PROTECTION ORDERS

Emergency Protection Order (EPO): an urgent order one can apply for if a family member is harassing, threatening, or being violent (Calgary Legal Guidance, 2022). Police may apply this order, or you can apply at the Court of the King's Bench, Calgary Court House (Calgary Legal Guidance, 2022). Both parties must review the order after nine days of the order.
(Calgary Legal Guidance, 2022).

King's Bench Protection Order: a nonurgent order granted to persons experiencing family violence. Provides similar conditions as an EPO, with some variations.

Restraining Order: an order granted to a person experiencing unwanted/harmful behaviour (Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta, 2021-a) that stops the unwanted person from contacting you or coming to your home or workplace (Center for Public Legal Education Alberta, 2021-a). Apply at the Court of the King's Bench, Calgary Courthouse.
(Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta, 2021-a)

Peace Bond: a nonurgent order in which parties agree to maintain peace, ordered by a judge.
(Centre for Legal Education Alberta, 2021-a)

Exclusive Possession Order: a temporary order that allows the applicant exclusive possession of the family home and requests all others to vacate (Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta, 2021). Apply at the Court of the King's Bench, Calgary Courthouse.
(Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta, 2021-a)

No Contact Conditions: Conditions outlined by a probation order or bail conditions, which may include that the Accused shall have no contact with the Survivor.
(Alberta Government, 2022-b)

As referenced from the Calgary Legal Guidance and Alberta Government website.

Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), is a act in Alberta that giving people the right to know if their current or ex-partner has any previous history of violence or abuse.

Clare's Law states that Albertans who believe they are at risk of domestic violence have the right to get information about potentially harmful intimate partners.

People at risk can find out if their partner has a history of Domestic violence, Stalking or harassment, Breaches of No Contact Orders and Other Related Acts

Under Clare's Law, you have the right to:

- Make an application to the police requesting information about your current or ex-partner, because you are worried they may have been abusive in the past and believe they may pose a risk to you in future.
- Request information from the police about the current or ex-partner of a close friend, neighbour or family member, because you are concerned that they might be at risk of domestic abuse in future.

(Alberta Government, 2022-a, para.1)

**Anyone can apply online through the
Alberta Government Website:**

www.alberta.ca/claress-law.aspx

LEGAL ADVICE & COUNSEL RESOURCES

Calgary Courts – Family Court Assistance

1-403-297-6981

Calgary Legal Guidance

1-403-234-9266

clg@clg.ab.ca

Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic

1-403-314-9129

1-877-314-9129

info@communitylegalclinic.net

Center for Public Legal Education Alberta

www.cplea.ca

Collaborative Divorce in Alberta

www.collaborativepractice.ca

Emergency Protection Order

(EPO) Program (Calgary)

Provincial Court EPO Duty Counsel

1-403-355-4868

Family Justice Services

1-403-297-6981 (Calgary area)

1-403-340-7187 (Alberta)

310-000 (toll-free access)

Family Mediation Services

www.alberta.ca/family-mediation.aspx

Law Society of AB Lawyer Referral Services

1-800-661-1095

Legal Aid Alberta Service Centers

1-866-845-3425

www.legalaidab.ca

Pro Bono Law Society

1-403-541-4804

www.pbla.ca

Student Legal Assistance (Calgary)

1-403-220-6637

www.slacalgary.com

Victim Services (Strathmore)

1-403-934-6552

www.strathmoreregionalvictimservices.com

Women's Centre of Calgary Legal Clinic

1-403-264-1155

legal@womenscentrecalgary.org

www.womenscentrecalgary.org

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Resolution Services. (2017). General Information: Guardianship, Parenting, Custody, Access and Contact. www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/rcas-general-information-guardianship-parenting-custody-access-and-contact.pdf



WHO WE ARE

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY WITHOUT ABUSE

True North provides programs and services to all people who are affected by family abuse. Our mission is to make sure all individuals and families impacted by abuse are supported through access to safety, shelter, counselling, and resources and prevention services. We are committed to a vision of a safe and secure community free from abuse.

Thank you for your interest in our Court Support program.

Our Outreach Team is available to assist you with any questions, concerns, or comments you may have about the Court Support program.

Please contact outreach@truenorthab.com
or (403) 934-6634 ex 0

CONTACT US

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