

# Parent Information

## *Parents Helping Children*

**T**he Parent Information Program assists parents involved in a proceeding before the Supreme Court (Family Division) to support their children during the process and to identify and practice ways to keep children from getting caught in the middle of the conflict.

### **Goals**

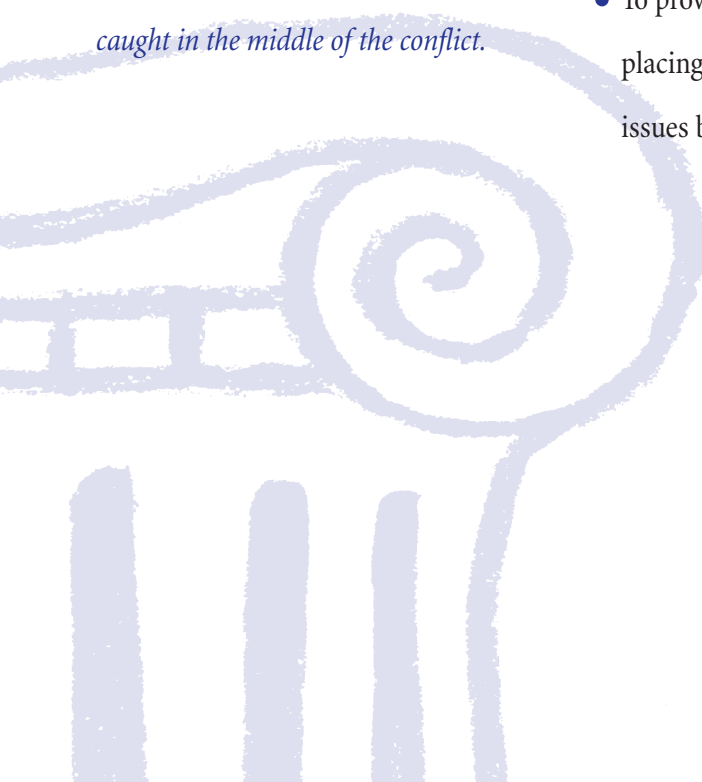
#### ***The goals of the Parent Information***

#### ***Program are:***

- To increase parents' awareness of the impact of parental conflict on children;
- To improve communication between parents about their children's needs; and
- To provide new ways to avoid placing children in the middle of issues between their parents.

### **When and Where**

Sessions will take place on scheduled days or evenings at the Family Division locations, in Halifax, Sydney and Port Hawkesbury. Once referred by a court officer, each parent is required to attend parent information sessions. A court staff member will inform parents of the date and time of the sessions they must attend. Every attempt will be made to accommodate work and family commitments. For more information on the program call 424-3990 in Halifax Regional Municipality and 563-2202 in Cape Breton.



## Common Questions

### *Will my ex-partner be in the same session as me?*

No. The sessions are scheduled to ensure that you will not attend the same session as your ex-partner. They will be required to attend a session on another date.

### *Do I have to attend the session?*

Yes, the sessions are mandatory if you have been referred by a court officer. Failure to attend will be noted in the court file and may affect your ability to get a court date for a hearing or trial, or the judge may ask you why you did not attend. There are circumstances where your failure to attend may lead to one of the following:

- you cannot have your case heard without the special permission of a court officer or judge
- a judge refuses to accept your written or verbal submissions
- your pleadings (court forms) are removed from the court file
- the judge makes a costs order against you

### *What will happen at the session?*

You will receive information about options for resolving disputes, the effects of parental conflict on a child, as well as discuss children's experience of separation and divorce, learn techniques for dealing with conflict situations and ways to avoid placing your child in the middle.

### *Do I bring my child to the session?*

No.

### *If an emergency arises and I can't attend the session, who should I contact?*

Call the Family Division immediately and inform the court officer who referred you to Parent Information of the situation.

### *Can a friend or family member come to the session with me?*

No. The session is to help you and your former partner with the issues that you are facing.

### *Will I be asked for personal information about my situation?*

No. You will not have to talk about your situation. The sessions will focus on videos and handouts. You will have an opportunity to ask questions.

## More Information

For more information about representing yourself in court visit the Department of Justice website at <[www.gov.ns.ca/just/repselmain.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/repselmain.htm)>. For information about the courts of Nova Scotia go to <[www.courts.ns.ca](http://www.courts.ns.ca)>.

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