

**FAMILY LAW PRACTICE NOTE 1
PARENTING AFTER SEPARATION
Effective January 2, 2026**

1. This Practice Note is applicable to proceedings under the [Divorce Act, RSC 1985 c3 \(2nd Supp\)](#) and the [Family Law Act, SA 2003, cF-4.5](#) where the parties reside in Alberta.
2. Every Plaintiff in a divorce action when there are children under the age of 18 years affected by the proceeding must complete the online [Parenting After Separation](#) seminar (“Online Seminar”) within three months of filing the Statement of Claim.
3. The Defendant to any such divorce action must complete the Online Seminar within three months of being served with the Statement of Claim and file a certificate of completion with the Clerk of the Court.
4. When there are children under the age of 18 years affected by a proceeding, no application for interim relief under the *Divorce Act* or the *Family Law Act*, shall be made before the applicant (or respondent in a cross-application) completes the Online Seminar prior to submitting the application. A certificate of completion for the Online Seminar must be filed with the Clerk of the Court. The Online Seminar must have been taken within the previous two years.
5. However, in cases where an application is being made:
 - a) for interim parenting or decision-making incidental to a without notice restraining order due to domestic violence,
 - b) where kidnapping or abduction of a child is alleged, or
 - c) where there has been a unilateral change in *de facto* custody of a child,the Applicant may proceed without first completing the Online Seminar. In such cases, the Applicant must complete the Online Seminar within two weeks of filing the application, providing the proposed completion date to the Clerk of the Court.
6. Before an action can be set down for trial, proof of attendance or completion by the party setting the action down for trial must be filed.

7. Both parties seeking a desk divorce must file proof of completion of the Online Seminar. For clarity, this provision also applies where the parties proceed by joint application for divorce.
8. Any party who does not complete the Online Seminar and has not been exempted may have their pleadings struck or be refused the right to make submissions on an application or at trial.
9. There is no requirement to complete the Online Seminar if all children are 18 years of age or older or if the children reside outside of Canada.
10. There may be other extraordinary cases where an exemption from completing the Online Seminar will be granted. These cases will be dealt with individually upon application to the court. The Parenting After Separation Seminar Application for Exemption form is attached to this Practice Note.

COURT FILE NUMBER

Court of King's Bench

JUDICIAL CENTRE (King's Bench)

APPLICANT(S)

RESPONDENT(S)

DOCUMENT **Parenting After Separation Seminar
Application for Exemption**

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE AND CONTACT
INFORMATION OF
PARTY FILING THIS DOCUMENT

Date of Application:

Name of person seeking exemption:

Name of counsel:

Name of other party:

Name of counsel:

Date registered for Online Seminar: _____ Proposed completion date: _____

Reason for asking for exemption:

- Exemption not granted
- Exempt from taking the Seminar or Online Seminar
- Exempt from taking the Seminar or Online Seminar before bringing Notice of Motion or application but must take the Seminar or complete the Online Seminar within one month of today's date. [In order to obtain a one month exemption the party must already be registered for the Seminar or Online Seminar on the dates indicated on this request.]

Justice of the Court of King's Bench

Date