

COURT REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE PARENT INFORMATION PROGRAM

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH
OF MANITOBA

PROVINCIAL COURT
OF MANITOBA



FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

is a supportive information program offered by Family Conciliation (a branch of Manitoba Family Services and Housing) for families dealing with custody, access or private guardianship issues. New court rules make program attendance **mandatory** for Manitobans who are requesting or responding to requests for interim or final orders in the Court of Queen's Bench or the Provincial Court for:

- child custody
- child access
- private guardianship

HOW DO THE OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE CASE FIND OUT ABOUT THE REQUIREMENT FOR MANDATORY ATTENDANCE AT THE PROGRAM?

When a person files a request for an interim or final order for custody, access or private guardianship, the court office will give him/her copies of this pamphlet. That person must give a copy of the pamphlet to all other parties involved in the case, at the same time they give them the documents requesting the order.

WHEN MUST THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE CASE TAKE THE PROGRAM?

All parties must take the program **before** the court hears a request for custody, access or private guardianship.

ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS TO MANDATORY PROGRAM ATTENDANCE?

Yes. Exceptions include:

1. A person who is involved in a proceeding:
 - a) where the other party lives outside Manitoba
 - b) where the parties are consenting to the order
 - c) the matter is unopposed
2. The other party files satisfactory proof that (s)he has attended the Manitoba program or a comparable program outside Manitoba within the previous two years.

3. The court can order a person's attendance at the program be excused or deferred in cases of urgency, hardship, or where the court feels it is appropriate to do so.

HOW AND WHERE CAN A PERSON ATTEND THE PROGRAM?

People must attend in person if they live in, or within 100 kilometres of, Winnipeg and Brandon.

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

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

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

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

Website: [www.gov.mb.ca/fs/
childfam/family_conciliation.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/family_conciliation.html)

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 – 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 – 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

CAN A PERSON APPLY TO TAKE THE PROGRAM IN AN ALTERNATE MANNER?

Yes. A person can ask the court to permit attendance in an alternate manner (such as viewing the electronic version of the program) in cases of urgency, hardship, or where the court feels it is appropriate to do so.

IF PARTIES ARE APPLYING TO VARY A CUSTODY, ACCESS OR PRIVATE GUARDIANSHIP ORDER ARE THEY REQUIRED TO TAKE THE PROGRAM?

No. However, a person can apply for a court order requiring the other party to take the program in appropriate cases.

HOW DOES A PERSON PROVE ATTENDANCE AT THE PROGRAM?

Persons attending the program will receive an attendance certificate. The certificate must be filed in court by 2:00 p.m. at least two days before the hearing, unless the court orders otherwise.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PERSON DOES NOT TAKE THE PROGRAM, AS REQUIRED?

The responding person's failure to take the program does not prevent the court from hearing the other person's request for an order for child-related relief.

The court may make an order:

- requiring attendance
- requiring payment of costs
- staying or suspending the proceedings
- suspending the person's right to file documents
- refusing to consider the person's filed documents

Detailed provisions about program attendance requirements are contained in Court of Queen's Bench Rule 70.24.1. A copy of this can be found in law libraries and court houses.

The Court of Queen's Bench Rules can also be purchased from the Government of Manitoba Statutory Publications. Phone: 204-945-3101 in Winnipeg or toll free: 1-800-321-1203

They are also available online at:
www.manitobacourts.mb.ca