

# Resources for women and Advocates

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN and THE LAW



BATTERED WOMEN'S  
SUPPORT SERVICES



The Violence Stops Here

# Online Publications Resources for Community Workers

---

## Family Law In British Columbia

---

This website is maintained by the Legal Services Society (LSS). It provides information about variety of topic related to Family Law and some other related mattered including income assistance and immigration issues.

This site is meant to provide legal information only, not legal advice. The information is available in **Arabic, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Spanish, Farsi, Russian, French, Mandarin and Cantonese.**

<http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca/default.asp>

**PHONE 604.601.6000**

---

## Legal Help For British Columbians

---

(Community Worker Resource)

This booklet, done in collaboration with the Nicola Valley Advocacy Centre and BC Courthouse Libraries, is a guide for non-legal professionals in British Columbia to learn where to direct clients when legal problems occur. **It offers tips, tools, step-by-step process, and where to refer women.**

To order copies contact: Peoples Law School

<http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/snapfiles/Publications/Legal%20Help%20for%20British%20Columbians%20Dec2009.pdf>

---

## Public Legal Education And Information Resource Catalogue (BC)

---

This booklet lists resources including print materials available to the public in BC on law-related topics. It is 78 pages long but is well indexed by areas of the law. Anyone providing services to the public will find this helpful, because it is a **one-stop resource guiding you to appropriate legal resources for anyone you are working with.**

To order print copies contact: Legal Services Society Distribution

[http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/snapfiles/Publications/PLEI\\_Resource\\_Catalogue\\_2006-07.pdf](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/snapfiles/Publications/PLEI_Resource_Catalogue_2006-07.pdf)

**PHONE 604.331.5400**

---

## JP Boyd's Family Law Resource

---

This website offers a comprehensive survey of family law, divorce law and the court process in British Columbia, Canada. It's written in plain language, with handy pop-up **definitions for legal words and phrases**, and covers pretty much everything there is to know about family law and divorce law in the province

<http://www.bcfamilylawresource.com/>

---

---

## Justice Education Society of BC

---

In this website you will find user-friendly information in family law matters that range from 'how to represent yourself in court' to 'how to cope with separation and divorce'.

<http://www.justiceeducation.ca/family-law>

For example, *Court Tips* helps women to prepare to represent themselves in Supreme Court during a family law hearing. The website has seven videos show what information to present to a judge, explain what to expect from the process and answer questions commonly asked by parents before appearing in court, for example, how to present a case in Chambers; how to put a best case forward; how to avoid pitfalls, etc.

<http://www.justiceeducation.ca/resources/Court-Tips-for-Parents>

Another helpful resource is the *What to Expect the Day of the Hearing: Family Law and You, Representing BC Supreme Court* has four videos that help women representing themselves in Supreme Court cases. These cases can include divorce, custody, access, guardianship and/or child support matters.

<http://www.justiceeducation.ca/resources/Family-Law-and-You>

**PHONE 604.660.9870**

---

## Click Law

---

This site provides legal information, education and help

for British Columbians. **Provides links to resources in English, Farsi, French, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese.**

<http://www.clicklaw.bc.ca/>

**PHONE 604.660.2841** (CourtHouse Libraries BC)

---

## Community Legal Assistance Society

---

Activities include test case and Charter litigation; service case work and law reform; liaison and consultation with community groups; legal supervision of advocacy groups and law students; publication of legal materials designed to assist self-represented litigants; and legal training and support to lay advocates, community groups, law students, and lawyers doing pro-bono work.

[www.clasbc.net/index.php](http://www.clasbc.net/index.php)

**PHONE 604.685.3425**

---

## Law Students Legal Assistance Program manual

---

It provides helpful information about the law and legal procedures. Chapter 3 is all about Family law

[http://www.lslap.bc.ca/main/?Manual\\_download](http://www.lslap.bc.ca/main/?Manual_download)

**PHONE 604.822.5791**

---

## \*Access Justice

---

Pro Bono legal services of BC/ Multilingual brochures /English legal term glossary

<http://www.accessjustice.ca/>

**PHONE 604.482.3195**

---

## BC Government Attorney General Website

---

Family Court forms: PDF files

<http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/courts/family/info/forms.htm>

**PHONE 604.660.2421**

---

### \*Accessing Court Documents Online

---

<http://www.justiceeducation.ca/resources/Accessing-Court-Documents-Online/>

**PHONE 604.660.9870**

---

# Online Publications/Resources for Immigrant Women

---

## Multilingual Legal Glossary

---

As a project that has been in development over the past 5 years, Vancouver Community College, has developed an online glossary of legal and court-related terms in **plain language (English), Farsi (Persian), Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese**.

The 5,000 entries in the Glossary are created to assist interpreters, legal and paralegal professionals, community services providers and the general public as they search for Canadian legal terms.

**English** <http://www.legalglossary.ca>  
**PHONE 604.871.7000**

---

## Court Information

---

Is the new online home of the Society's Court Information Program for Immigrants. The program provides free information and referrals to new immigrants. The website provides information, numerous videos, links to online resources as well as translated information from the popular resource Learning About the Law in six languages: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Spanish and French.

<http://www.courtinformation.ca> (English)  
<http://www.courtinformation.ca/es> (Spanish/Español)  
**PHONE 1-866.550.2474**

---

## Dial-a-law scripts in Punjabi, English and Chinese • Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch

---

Dial-A-Law is a library of scripts prepared by lawyers. It offers general information on a variety of topics on law in British Columbia, but not legal advice. If you need further information, you should consult a lawyer by calling the Lawyer Referral Service at 604.687.3221 or toll free in BC at 1.800.663.1919. Dial-A-Law is a free service that is available in **English, Chinese and Punjabi** by telephone and on the Internet.

The library of scripts includes information on:

- divorce & separation
- property & asset division
- child custody & guardianship
- child adoption
- common-law relationships
- marriage & violence against women
- legal information on same-sex relationships

**Chinese Simplified:** [http://www.cba.org/BC/pdf/dal/dal\\_chinese.pdf](http://www.cba.org/BC/pdf/dal/dal_chinese.pdf)  
**English** [http://www.cba.org/BC/Public\\_Media/dal/default.aspx](http://www.cba.org/BC/Public_Media/dal/default.aspx)  
**Punjabi** [http://www.cba.org/BC/pdf/dal/dal\\_punjabi.pdf](http://www.cba.org/BC/pdf/dal/dal_punjabi.pdf)

**PHONE 604.687.3221**  
**Toll Free in BC 1.800.663.1919**

---

**How Legal Aid Can Help You • Legal Services Society**

---

Outlines in plain language what legal aid is, and how and where to apply for it. It also lists the phone numbers of legal aid offices in BC.

Other languages: **Arabic, Chinese** (simplified and traditional), **French, Korean, Russian, Tagalog, Vietnamese**

**English** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/legalAidCanHelpYou\\_eng.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/legalAidCanHelpYou_eng.pdf)

**Farsi, Persian** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/legalAidCanHelpYou\\_far.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/legalAidCanHelpYou_far.pdf)

**Punjabi** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/legalAidCanHelpYou\\_pun.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/legalAidCanHelpYou_pun.pdf)

**Spanish** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/legalAidCanHelpYou\\_spa.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/legalAidCanHelpYou_spa.pdf)

**Greater Vancouver 604.408.2172**

**Elsewhere in BC 1-866.577.2525** (No charge)

---

**What You Should Expect from Your Legal Aid Lawyer • Legal Services Society**

---

Describes the role of a legal aid lawyer and what the client should expect from them. Also explains what someone should do if they are unhappy with the results of their case or their legal aid lawyer.

Other languages: **Chinese, Traditional, French, Vietnamese**

**English** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/whatYouShouldExpectFromLawyer\\_eng.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/whatYouShouldExpectFromLawyer_eng.pdf)

**Farsi, Persian** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/whatYouShouldExpectFromLawyer\\_far.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/whatYouShouldExpectFromLawyer_far.pdf)

**Punjabi** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/whatYouShouldExpectFromLawyer\\_pun.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/whatYouShouldExpectFromLawyer_pun.pdf)

**Spanish** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/whatYouShouldExpectFromLawyer\\_spa.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/whatYouShouldExpectFromLawyer_spa.pdf)

**Greater Vancouver 604.408.2172**

**Elsewhere in BC 1-866.577.2525** (No charge)

---

**A Guide to a Successful Interview with a Lawyer • Community Legal Assistance Society**

---

Many people can only afford a brief meeting with a lawyer. This publication will help you organize and prepare for your interview with a lawyer so that you can use the time more effectively.

**English** <http://www.clasbc.net/publications/details.php?ID=7>

**PHONE 604.685.3425**

**Elsewhere in BC 1-888.685.6222** (Free)

---

**How to Get the Best Out of Your Legal Aid Lawyer • Community Legal Assistance Society**

---

This publication is designed to help you effectively work with your legal aid lawyer and maintain a positive relationship.

**English** <http://www.clasbc.net/publications/details.php?ID=9>

**PHONE 604.685.3425**

**Elsewhere in BC 1-888.685.6222** (Free)

### For Your Protection: Peace Bonds and Restraining Orders • Legal Services Society

Explains how and when people can apply for peace bonds and restraining orders, and what the differences are between them. For women who need protection from violent partners or ex-partners, but the information applies to anyone in an abusive relationship.

**Chinese** (Traditional) [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/forYourProtection\\_chi.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/forYourProtection_chi.pdf)

**English** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/forYourProtection\\_eng.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/forYourProtection_eng.pdf)

**Punjabi** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/forYourProtection\\_pun.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/forYourProtection_pun.pdf)

### Taking Legal Action • Legal Services Society

Explains the steps and legal proceedings for women who have been abused or threatened by a husband or partner: calling the police, being a witness for criminal charges against their husband or partner, and civil legal actions. Also describes who can help.

Other languages: **Chinese** (traditional)

**English** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_TakingLegalAction\\_eng.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_TakingLegalAction_eng.pdf)

**Farsi** (Persian) [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_TakingLegalAction\\_far.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_TakingLegalAction_far.pdf)

**Punjabi** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_TakingLegalAction\\_pun.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_TakingLegalAction_pun.pdf)

**Spanish** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_TakingLegalAction\\_spa.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_TakingLegalAction_spa.pdf)

**Greater Vancouver 604.408.2172**

**Elsewhere in BC 1-866.577.2525** (No charge)

### Stalking is a Crime • Department of Justice Canada

This 20 page publication explains:

- what stalking is under the Criminal Code of Canada
- taking action if you are stalked
- legal actions to take if you are stalked
- ways to increase your personal safety

**English** <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pil/fv-vf/pub/har/har.html>

**PHONE 1-888.373.2222** (General information)

## \*Immigration Law: Sponsorship Breakdown

### Sponsorship Breakdown • Legal Services Society

Sponsorship Breakdown is for permanent residents who need help when the person sponsoring them in Canada is no longer supporting them, and they are unable to support themselves. It explains what happens when a sponsorship breaks down, and how to apply for social assistance (welfare). There is also a resource section listing community groups and other help. Please note that the English version (only) of this publication was revised in 2009.

*Please refer to websites and telephone numbers on next page*

Other languages **Chinese** (traditional), **Korean**, **Vietnamese**

**English** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/sponsorshipBreakdown\\_eng.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/sponsorshipBreakdown_eng.pdf)

**Punjabi** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/sponsorshipBreakdown\\_pun.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/sponsorshipBreakdown_pun.pdf)

**Spanish** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/sponsorshipBreakdown\\_spa.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/sponsorshipBreakdown_spa.pdf)

**Greater Vancouver 604.408.2172**

**Elsewhere in BC 1-866.577.2525** (No charge)

---

### **If You Are an Immigrant Sponsored by Your Husband • Legal Services Society**

---

Describes to immigrant women who were sponsored by their husbands and are afraid for their safety, what their rights are, what they can do, who can help, and when to talk to a lawyer or legal aid.

Other languages: **Chinese** (traditional)

**English** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_SponsoredByHusband\\_eng.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_SponsoredByHusband_eng.pdf)

**Farsi** (Persian) [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_SponsoredByHusband\\_far.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_SponsoredByHusband_far.pdf)

**Punjabi** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_SponsoredByHusband\\_pun.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_SponsoredByHusband_pun.pdf)

**Spanish** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_SponsoredByHusband\\_spa.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_SponsoredByHusband_spa.pdf)

**Greater Vancouver 604.408.2172**

**Elsewhere in BC 1-866.577.2525** (No charge)

## Court Information

---

### **Court Information Program for Immigrants • Justice Education Society**

---

This program provides free legal information to immigrants. The website provides a variety of information on basic law issues, including information on:

- Canadian law
- BC Courts
- Criminal Law
- Basic family law

The website is accessible in **English, Chinese, French, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese**

[www.courtinformation.ca](http://www.courtinformation.ca)

Vancouver Provincial Court Phone Numbers:

**Chinese and Vietnamese 604.660.6087 604.660.6087**

**Spanish 604.660.6090**

**Punjabi and Hindi 604-760- 5727**

---

### **What is Family Court? • Peoples Law School**

---

A two page article describing what family court is.

**English** [http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/snapfiles/Articles/Family5\\_-\\_Family\\_Court.PDF](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/snapfiles/Articles/Family5_-_Family_Court.PDF)

**PHONE 604.331.5400**



---

## Guidebooks for Representing Yourself in Supreme Court • Justice Education Society

---

These guidebooks are a series of 17 PDF documents that provide information about civil, non-family law claims in BC's Supreme Court.

Although the guidebooks are for non-family law claims, some of the topics may still be relevant, including:

- a successful interview with a lawyer
- common supreme court terms
- overview of the supreme court process
- preparing for trial and trial in supreme court

**English** <http://www.justiceeducation.ca/resources/Representing-Yourself-In-Supreme-Court>  
**PHONE 604.660.9870**

---

## Custody and Access Resources

---

### \*Provincial (Family) Court: Getting Initial Orders for Custody, Guardianship, Access, and Support Flowchart • Legal Services Society

---

This poster provides a step-by-step overview of the process, including which forms you need to file, for getting initial orders for custody, guardianship, access, and support in Provincial (Family) Court. The poster also covers what you should do before you begin the court process, and whether your case needs to go to Supreme Court instead of Provincial Court.

**Note:** For best results, print this poster on 11X17 paper.

**English** <http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/provincialFamilyCourtGettingInitialOrders.pdf>

**Greater Vancouver 604.408.2172**  
**Elsewhere in BC 1-866.577.2525** (No charge)

---

### \*Custody and Access Factsheet • Legal Services Society

---

Describes what custody and access legally mean, what women can do to keep their children, what the courts may do, who can help, and when to talk to a lawyer or legal aid.

Other languages: **Chinese** (traditional)

**English** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_CustodyAndAccess\\_eng.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_CustodyAndAccess_eng.pdf)  
**Farsi (Persian)** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_CustodyAndAccess\\_far.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_CustodyAndAccess_far.pdf)  
**Punjabi** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_CustodyAndAccess\\_pun.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_CustodyAndAccess_pun.pdf)  
**Spanish** [http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen\\_CustodyAndAccess\\_spa.pdf](http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/batteredWomen_CustodyAndAccess_spa.pdf)

**Greater Vancouver 604.408.2172**  
**Elsewhere in BC 1-866.577.2525** (No charge)

### **Living Together or Living Apart: Common-Law Relationships, Marriage, Separation, and Divorce • Legal Services Society**

Explains the basics of family law in BC. Includes information about living common-law or being married, the process for separation and divorce, how to work out custody, support, and access issues if there are children involved, and how to sort out money matters. Also describes legal options and where to get help.

**English** <http://www.lss.bc.ca/assets/pubs/livingTogetherLivingApart.pdf>

**Greater Vancouver 604.408.2172**  
**Elsewhere in BC 1-866.577.2525** (No charge)

## Family Law: Maintenance and Support

### **Child Support in B.C. - Information for Parents • People's Law School**

General information for parents about child support in BC.

**English** <http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/snapfiles/Publications/49440%20PLS%20ChildSupport.pdf>  
**PHONE 604.331.5400**

### **Parenting After Separation Justice Education Society of BC & BC Ministry of Attorney General**

This handbook is a guide for parents separating that focuses on meeting the needs of the children through development of a parenting plan and positive communications.

**Chinese (simplified)** <http://www.justiceeducation.ca/themes/framework/documents/pasfrench.pdf>  
**English** [http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/familyjustice/resources/brochures\\_booklets/pas/PASHandbook.pdf](http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/familyjustice/resources/brochures_booklets/pas/PASHandbook.pdf)  
**French** <http://www.justiceeducation.ca/themes/framework/documents/pasfrench.pdf>  
**Punjabi** <http://www.justiceeducation.ca/themes/framework/documents/paspunjabi.pdf>

**PHONE 604.660.9870**

### **\*Enforcing Maintenance Support Orders and Payments Canadian Bar Association BC Branch**

This script discusses enforcing court orders and separation agreements that require spousal or child support to be paid.

**Chinese** [http://www.cba.org/BC/pdf/dal/dal\\_chinese.pdf](http://www.cba.org/BC/pdf/dal/dal_chinese.pdf)  
**English** [http://www.cba.org/BC/public\\_media/family/110.aspx](http://www.cba.org/BC/public_media/family/110.aspx)  
**Punjabi** [http://www.cba.org/BC/pdf/dal/dal\\_punjabi.pdf](http://www.cba.org/BC/pdf/dal/dal_punjabi.pdf)

### How to Act in Court • Justice Education Society

This resource helps self-representing litigants behave properly in civil court. Topics include What to Wear, What to do, What to Avoid, What to Call People and What to Do if You Don't Understand Something.

**English** <http://www.justiceeducation.ca/resources/Act-in-Court>

**PHONE 604.660.9870**

### How to Take Notes During Your Trial • Justice Education Society

This resource helps self-representing litigants take effective notes during a civil trial. Topics include making notes before you testify and during witness testimonies, checking evidence and keeping organized.

**English** <http://www.justiceeducation.ca/resources/Taking-Notes-in-Case>

**PHONE 604.660.9870**

### Every Woman's Primer on Testifying in Court

A resource to prepare women before going to court, from what to expect, to what to wear and tips on giving testimony. Written by a local and respected Family Law Lawyer, this document provides accessible and solid information for women going to court.

**English** [http://www.domesticabusemuststop.org/resources.php?subaction=showfull&id=110.230.3016&archive=&start\\_from=&ucat=2&](http://www.domesticabusemuststop.org/resources.php?subaction=showfull&id=110.230.3016&archive=&start_from=&ucat=2&)

## Multimedia Online Legal Resources

### Justice Education Society: Videos

#### How to act in court:

An instructional video about presenting a family matters case in Chambers

<http://www.courttips.ca/>

**PHONE 604.660.9870**

#### Family Law and You:

Representing Yourself in BC Supreme Court features four videos that assist people representing themselves in Supreme Court cases. These cases can include divorce, custody, access, guardianship and/or child support matters.

<http://www.justiceeducation.ca/resources/Family-Law-and-You/>

**PHONE 604.660.9870**

\*Resource useful for both immigrant women and workers.

# Violence against Women Resources

## Vancouver

---

### **Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS)**

---

Crisis Support, Victim Services, Legal Advocacy, Court Accompaniment, Counselling, Support Groups, Employment Program, Volunteer Program, Retail Program, Training and Professional Development.

Services are provided in English, Spanish and Farsi. Interpretation and translation for women speaking other languages is available.

[www.bwss.org](http://www.bwss.org)

**Email:** [information@bwss.org](mailto:information@bwss.org)

**Crisis Line 604.687.1867**

**Business Line 604.687.1868**

---

### **Kiwassa Neighbourhood House and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House Domestic Violence Support Program**

---

This is a community-based program to enhance the effectiveness of a mother's efforts to keep herself and her children safe from domestic violence in the home. Services include counseling, education, accompaniments, advocacy, information and connecting to community resources. Services are offered in English, Spanish & Punjabi.

[www.kiwassa.ca](http://www.kiwassa.ca)

**South Vancouver Neighbourhood House 604.324.6212**

**Kiwassa Neighbourhood House 604.254.5401**

---

### **Justice Education Society**

---

The Justice Education Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to the justice system through hands-on, targeted, two-way education between the public and those working in the system.

Provide many services, including the court information program for immigrants. This program provides free information and referrals to immigrants and refugees appearing in court. Services are provided in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Hindi and Spanish.

[www.justiceeducation.ca](http://www.justiceeducation.ca)

**Spanish 604.660.6090**

**Chinese and Vietnamese 604.660.6087**

---

### **Women against Violence against Women (WAVAW)**

---

WAVAW is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that has been providing sexual assault support services to women 14 years of age and older. The services are accessible to all women survivors of violence. Services include a 24-hour crisis line for women survivors of rape or sexual violence, support groups, advocacy, information and referral, assistance with completion of legal forms and compensation applications, accompaniment to police, hospital, and court.

*<http://www.wavaw.ca/>*

**PHONE 604 -255-6228**

---

## **Surrey**

---

### **Surrey Women's Centre**

---

This organization is run by and for women, providing a safe, non-judgmental, supportive environment. The centre provides resources regarding family law, and a Pro Bono Family Law Clinic periodically for women, with service provided by women lawyers.

Services are available in Punjabi & English

*<http://www.surreywomencentre.ca/>*

**PHONE 604.589.1868**

---

### **South Fraser Women's Services Society**

---

South Fraser Women's Services Society is a non-profit organization committed to providing information, resources, support and counselling for women. Legal Advocacy Services are available at our South Surrey or Cloverdale offices in English, Punjabi or Hindi. The Legal advocacy program provides legal information and support for women dealing with the family justice system in cases of divorce, separation, custody and access, child support, spousal support, peace bonds and restraining orders and child apprehension. The legal services include court accompaniment for women, arranging for lawyers and other appropriate appointments. The Society also assists in legal document preparation.

Services are available in Punjabi and English

*<http://www.sfwomensservices.com/>*

**PHONE 604.536.9611**

---

### **Justice Education Society**

---

The Justice Education Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to the justice system through hands-on, targeted, two-way education between the public and those working in the system.

Provide many services, including the court information program for immigrants. This program provides free information and referrals to immigrants and refugees appearing in court. Services are provided in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Hindi and Spanish.

*<http://www.justiceeducation.ca/about-us/contact-us/lmsf>*

**In Surrey** (English) **604.572.2276**  
**Punjabi and Hindi** **604.760.5727** or **604.507.1583**

---

### **Newton Advocacy Group**

---

The Newton Advocacy Group Society (NAGS) is a non-profit, charitable society committed to the empowerment of individuals and families through education, advocacy and the creation of supportive, community based networks.

Services include a Pro Bono Clinic in partnership with Access Justice for eligible clients.

*[http://www.newtonadvocacygroup.ca/main/?page\\_id=6](http://www.newtonadvocacygroup.ca/main/?page_id=6)*

**PHONE 604.596.2311**

---

### **North Vancouver/West Vancouver**

---

---

#### **North Shore Women's Centre**

---

Drop-in resource centre for women seeking information, resources, peer counselling, and support on women's issues. This centre provides legal information and advice on matters such as separation, divorce, and child custody and access through its Women's Legal Clinic program.

*<http://northshorewomen.ca/>*

**PHONE 604.984.6009**

---

### **Burnaby**

---

---

#### **Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society**

---

Is a non-profit organization offering free services to immigrant and visible minority women and their families who are experiencing family violence. Legal Services include advocacy for and assistance of women in their interactions with the social and justice systems. This service includes court preparation assistance, liaison with lawyers and Crown Counsel, and on-going supportive counseling throughout the court process. Services are available in twenty different languages, including Farsi, Spanish and Punjabi.

*<http://www.vlmfss.ca/>*

**PHONE 604.436.1025**

---

### **Tri-Cities**

---

---

#### **Tri-City Women's Resource Society**

---

A non-profit organization that offers programs and services addressing the needs of women and their families in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore, and Belcarra. Some of the legal help provided by the centre include court accompaniments, assistance with preparing legal document, and a pro Bono clinic in partnership with Access Justice society. Services are available in English and Spanish.

**PHONE 604.941.7111**

---

### **Share**

---

is a non-profit, independent, community based agency providing leadership and programs in response to the social needs of the residents of the Tri-Cities (Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore and Belcarra) and adjacent communities. Programs include Ending Violence against Women (EVAW), legal advocacy and a pro bono law clinic one afternoon per month.

*<http://www.sharesociety.ca/>*

**PHONE 604.540.9161**

## Richmond

---

### **CHIMO**

---

CHIMO Crisis Services provides a diverse range of services and programs focused on assisting Richmond, Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. CHIMO provides diverse services community education services, outreach and advocacy, Pro Bono Law Clinic, a transition house. Legal information and services are available in a dozen languages, including, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Arabic, Spanish, French, Dutch and English.

*<http://www.chimocrisis.com/>*

**PHONE 604-279-7077**

## Resources in British Columbia

### VictimLink

---

VictimLINK is a toll-free, BC-wide 24-hour crisis line. VictimLINK provides information and referrals for all kinds of crimes including sexual assault, violence in relationships, elder abuse, and adult survivors of physical or sexual abuse. VictimLINK provides service in 130 languages and dialects, including 17 North American aboriginal languages. VictimLINK is TTY accessible and provides interpretation services for all major languages.

**TTY** 604.875.0885.

**Collect** TELUS Relay Service at 711

**Toll-free** 1-800.563.0808

**Website** [www.victimsinfo.ca/services/victimlink](http://www.victimsinfo.ca/services/victimlink)

### Police

---

In case of an emergency or if you are afraid of your safety you have the right to call the police. **CALL 911** or your local police.

### Transition House for Women and their children in BC

---

The BC Yukon Society of Transition Houses (BCYSTH) is a non-profit association of transition houses, safe homes, second stage houses, and other groups, which serve the needs of abused women and their children.

**Toll-free** 1-800.661.1040

To inquire about a transition house in your area

**Website** [www.bcysth.ca/index.html](http://www.bcysth.ca/index.html)

For services throughout BC and the Yukon.

### Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

---

The BC Government funds over 160 programs, operating out of non-profit agencies and police detachments that provide information about the justice system, practical help, emotional support and referrals to other appropriate programs.

For more information contact Enquire BC:

**In Victoria** 250.387.6121

**In Vancouver** 604.660.2421

**Elsewhere in BC** 1-800.663.7867

**Outside BC** 604.660.2421

**Website**

[www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victim\\_services/index.htm](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victim_services/index.htm)

## Resources for Aboriginal Women

### Aboriginal Transition Houses and Family Violence Crisis Lines

---

**Toll-free** 1-800.563.0808

VictimLINK Phone Line (24 hours)

### Aboriginal Canada Portal

---

The Aboriginal Canada Portal is a window to First Nations, Métis and Inuit online resources and government programs and services.

**Toll free** 1-888.399.0111

**Website**

[www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/en/index.html](http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/en/index.html)

### Indian Residential School Survivors Society

---

The IRSSS is a non-profit Aboriginal organization. The IRSSS helps Aboriginal people in BC to address/recover from generational effects of residential school Nation-wide 24 hours service

**Phone** 1-800.925.4419 (National Support Line)

**Toll-free** 1-800.721.0066

## Resources for Non-status, Refugee and Immigrant Women

### AMSSA

---

AMSSA is an affiliation of Member Agencies providing immigrant settlement and multicultural services in communities throughout BC.

**Phone** 604.718.2780 or 1-888.355.5560

**Website** [www.amssa.Org](http://www.amssa.Org)

### Immigrant Services Society of BC

---

ISSofBC provides a variety of services to immigrant and refugee communities in the Lower Mainland. ISSofBC plays an important role in the settlement, education, and integration of immigrants from the day they arrive in Canada. ISSofBC is a friend to newcomers, assisting with initial settlement needs and appropriate language and employment training, and helping to establish networks in their communities.

**Phone** 604.684.2561



## Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services

---

Provides culturally sensitive services to immigrant and visible minority women and children in cases of violence in intimate relationships. Service is offered in many languages.

**Phone** 604.436.1025

**Website** [www.vlmfss.ca](http://www.vlmfss.ca)

## Resources for People with Disabilities

### BC Coalition of People with Disabilities

---

BCCPD is an umbrella disability rights group. They can direct you to other services and disability resources in BC

**Phone** 604.875.0188 **TTY** 604.875.8835

**Website** [www.bccpd.bc.ca](http://www.bccpd.bc.ca)

## Resources for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender community

### Prideline

---

Prideline is a peer support/information/referral phone line serving the LGBT communities both locally and province wide. Prideline offers referrals to social service agencies, support groups, queer-friendly doctors or therapists; and information on services offered at Qmunity. In addition Prideline offers peer support services on issues ranging from coming out, relationship conflict, work place difficulties, and parenting issues to calls touching on same sex domestic violence and suicide.

**Phone** 604.684.6869 in Van. Lower Mainland:

**Toll-free** 1-800.566.1170 in BC

**Website** [www.qmunity.ca/adults/prideline/](http://www.qmunity.ca/adults/prideline/)

## Resources for Seniors

### BC Coalition to Eliminate Abuse of Seniors

---

BCCEAS works to prevent elder abuse and to provide assistance and support to older adults that are, or may be, abused and those whose rights have been violated.

**Phone** 604.437.1940 local

Seniors Information & Help Line

**Toll-free** 1-866.437.1940

**Website** <http://bcceas.ca/>

## Legal aid

**The Legal Services Society** has a range of free services for people who have a legal problem but cannot afford a lawyer. LSS is the non-profit organization that provides legal aid to British Columbians. Legal aid services include:

**Legal information** through legal information outreach workers, as well as publications in many languages and the Family Law in BC **website** [www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca](http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca)

**Legal advice** from duty counsel lawyers at most courthouses. You can also get help from family advice lawyers at several family justice centres.

**Phone** 604.408.2172 in the Lower Mainland

**OR** 1-866.577.2525 outside the Lower Mainland

**Legal representation** from a lawyer for those who qualify and have serious family, child protection, or criminal law issues. It is also available for some immigration, mental health, and prison law matters.

You can apply in person at a legal aid office, or over the phone by calling the Call Centre.

If you have to call long distance to reach a legal aid office, call Enquiry BC and ask for a transfer to the office number you want (free call):

**Vancouver** 604.660.2421

**Victoria** 250.387.6121

**Outside Victoria & Vancouver** 1-800.663.7867

---

For more information please contact BWSS' Intake and Crisis line between 10am and 5pm on weekdays and until 8pm on Wednesdays.

**604.687.1867**



# Resources for women and Advocates

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN and THE LAW



**The Violence Stops Here**

This resource is part of Battered Women's Support Services  
Engaging Immigrant Women in the Legal System Project  
funded by The Law Foundation of BC.

