



CLEO

Community Legal Education Ontario
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario

CLEO's Family Law Guided Pathways: Free Tools for Separation and Divorce

Access to Justice Week 2026

Wednesday, October 28th, 12 pm – 1 pm

Land acknowledgement

CLEO acknowledges that our office is located on the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Chippewa, and the Wendat. Today, this area of Tkaronto, also known as Toronto, is covered by Treaty 13 between the Mississaugas of the Credit and the British Crown.

CLEO acknowledges the ongoing impacts of colonization and anti-Indigenous racism built into our laws and legal systems. We commit to learning about and respecting the responsibilities and relationships reflected in the treaties, in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Presenters

Lisa Eisen was called to the Ontario Bar in 1995 and earned her Associate Certified Coach credential in 2013, via the International Coaching Federation. Lisa has been working as a family law lawyer for many years, representing clients at all stages of the process. In 2016, Lisa founded Family Law: A La Carte (www.FamilyLawALaCarte.ca) where she provides unbundled family law and legal coaching services to clients. As part of a Law Foundation (Ontario) research project on legal coaching, Lisa served as an expert advisor. Lisa has spoken at a number of conferences and law schools about unbundling and legal coaching.

Erik Bornmann is Director, Guided Pathways at CLEO (Community Legal Education Ontario), where he leads the development and delivery of interactive tools that help people navigate legal processes and complete court and tribunal documents. A lawyer, Erik previously practised litigation at a community legal clinic and led a digital innovation initiative to expand service capacity across Ontario's legal clinic system.

Elizé Khan is a Guided Pathways Project Coordinator and Analyst at CLEO, where she project manages the development of direct-to-public legal applications, including CLEO's widely used Small Claims Court collection. She also coordinates CLEO's Guided Pathways user testing and communications programs. She holds an Honours BA in Sociology and Criminology and a Master of Information, with a focus on UX Design, from the University of Toronto.

Today's agenda

1. **About the Guided Pathways**
2. **Navigating the family law process**
 - Planning
 - Starting
 - Replying
 - Getting there (to settlement or trial)
 - Orders, enforcement, and changes
3. **How we know they work**
4. **Questions**

CLEO Program Areas



CLEO produces **clear, accurate, and practical information** to help people understand the law and exercise their legal rights.



CLEO Publications

Read, print, and order CLEO publications.



Steps to Justice

Step-by-step information about legal problems. Reliable, practical, and easy to understand.



Guided Pathways

Use CLEO's free online interviews to fill out legal forms, draft letters, and identify your next steps.



CLEO Connect

Training, tools, resources, and connections that help community workers help their clients who have legal problems.

CLEO's Guided Pathways



Guided Pathways

Fill out your legal forms and take action

Use CLEO's free online interviews to fill out legal forms, draft letters, and identify your next steps. The Guided Pathways ask you questions and then use your answers to fill in the forms and letters you need. When you are done, you can save and print your papers.



Abuse and Violence

Take steps to help protect yourself or someone else from abuse and violence.



Family Law

Fill out the court forms you need for your family law case.



Housing Law

Fill out the Landlord and Tenant Board forms you need for your rental housing case.



Immigration Law

Fill out draft forms to apply for an open work permit in Canada.



Income Assistance

Ask for a reconsideration or appeal the decision to deny you Canada Pension Plan disability benefits.



Nonprofit Bylaws

Create bylaws for a nonprofit corporation in Ontario.



Small Claims Court

Fill out the court forms you need for your Small Claims Court case.



Wills and Powers of Attorney

Make a will or power of attorney, or cancel an existing power of attorney.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

guided-pathways.ca

stepstojustice.ca



Quick exit

< Back Next > MY PROGRESS: Were you and David Jones ever legally... SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Were you and David Jones ever legally married?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Continue

7 Support

6 Orders you want to change

5 Information about your case

4 Information about your relationship

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Family Law Rules Forms

 **Court Services**

[Accessibility](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Français](#)

[Home](#) / Family Law Rules Forms

[Home](#)
[Family Law Rules Forms](#)
[Trial Scheduling](#)
[Endorsement](#)
[Forms](#)
[Restraining Orders with Auto-Complete Macros](#)
[CYFSA](#)
[Endorsement](#)
[Sheets](#)
[Family Law Rules Forms Archive \(Obsolete\)](#)
[Documents Related to Non-Parent](#)
[Applications for Decision-Making Responsibility](#)
[Request to Pay](#)

Family Law Rules Forms

[Notice to Profession: Changes to the Family Law Rules in force August 1 and September 1, 2020](#)

Electronic versions of forms under the [Family Law Rules, O. Reg. 114/99](#), are available in the table below, in a viewable (Adobe PDF) and fillable (Microsoft Word) format. Both formats are printable. The fillable format can be completed on-line and saved to your computer for future reference.

You can file most family court forms online using the Ministry of the Attorney General's Justice Services Online. For more information about online filing, go to the [Government of Ontario website](#).

If you cannot file online, file your documents in person at the courthouse or by email in accordance with the [Family Law Rules](#) and any orders, Notices, and Practice Directions issued by the [Ontario Court of Justice](#) and the [Superior Court of Justice](#).

If you need help completing your family court forms, you can use the [Guided Pathways to Family Court Forms](#), a free online tool developed by Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) and the Ministry of the Attorney General. The tool asks you questions and puts your answers into the required court forms. When you're finished, you can save or print your completed forms before filing them with the court.

You can also find more helpful information about family law on the Ministry's [Family Law](#) website and CLEO's [Steps to Justice](#) website.

To view PDF files, you will require Adobe Acrobat® Reader version 5.0 (or higher). You can download this free software from [Adobe's web site](#).

If you do not have Microsoft Word installed on your computer, you can download the MS-Word Viewer. It will allow you to view the fillable forms. You can download this free software from [Microsoft's web site](#).

ontariocourtforms.on.ca

Starting a Guided Pathway

Welcome to the Guided Pathways

New Users

We suggest that you **create an account**. This is because it can take anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours to answer all of the questions in a pathway or interview.

How long you'll need depends on your situation and how much information you have to give. Having an account lets you save your work, take a break, collect any information you are missing, and then carry on from where you left off.

You can choose to **continue as a guest**, instead of creating an account. But then you have to answer all of the questions without stopping, until you reach the end.

[Create an Account](#)[Continue as Guest](#)

Sign into your account

Email

Password

[Log In](#)

Remember Me

[Forgot Password](#)

For help setting up an account and other technical support, contact support@cleo.on.ca

We can't give legal advice or help you answer questions. If you need legal help or advice, [talk to a lawyer](#).

[Privacy Policy](#)[Terms of use](#)

©2026 Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)

Register an account

Register

Please complete the following form to create an account.

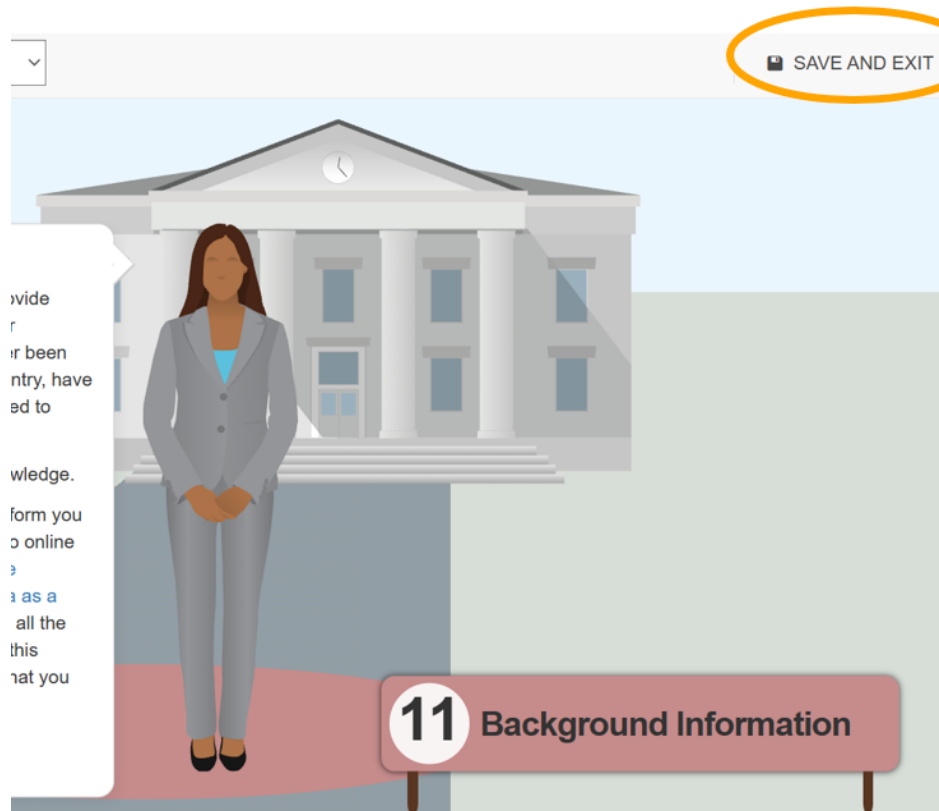
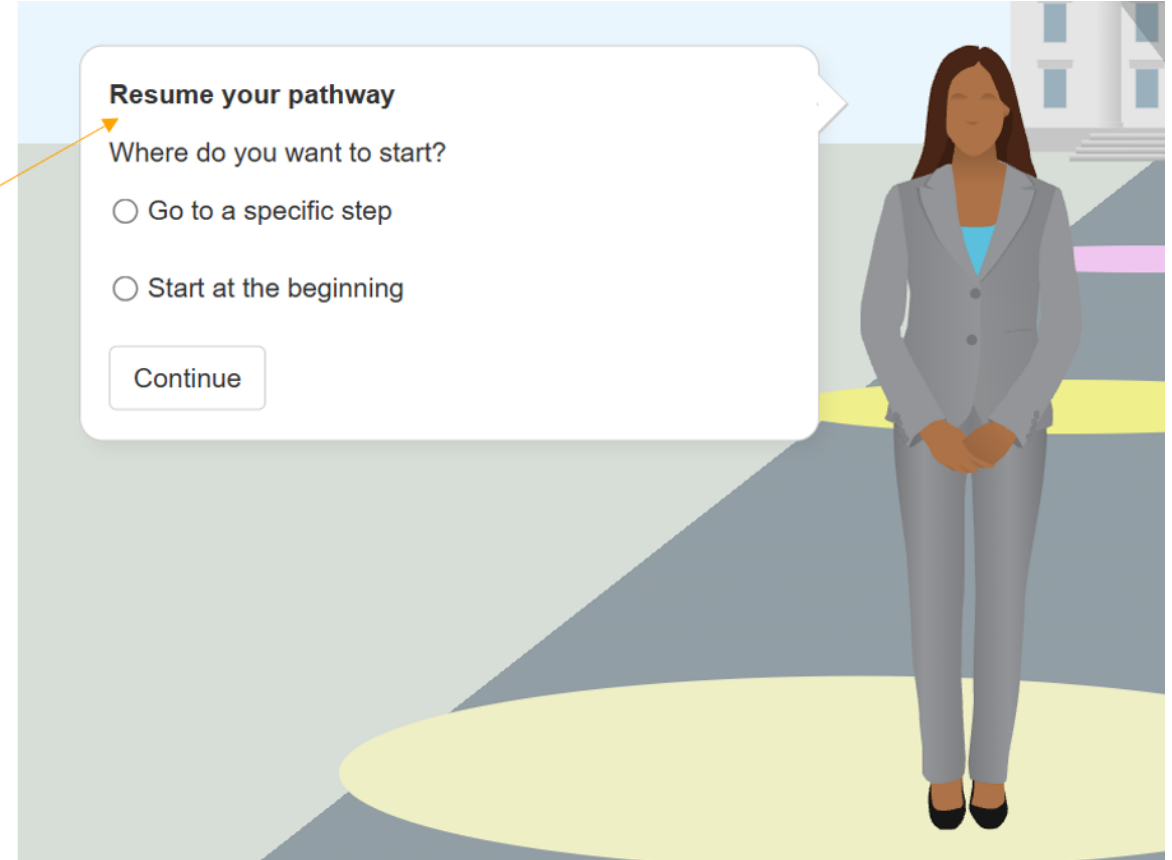
Login Information

Email*	<input type="text"/>
Password*	<input type="password"/> Your password must have 8-15 characters with at least one: upper case letter, lower case letter, number, and special character.
Confirm Password*	<input type="password"/>
Security Question*	<input type="text"/>
Security Answer*	<input type="text"/>

Contact Information

First Name*	<input type="text"/>		
Last Name*	<input type="text"/>		
Language Preference	<input type="text" value="English"/>		
Organization	<input type="text"/>		
Title	<input type="text"/>		
Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(XXX) XXX-XXXX"/>	Ext	<input type="text"/>
Address Lookup	<input type="text" value="Enter a location"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>	P.O. Box / RR	<input type="text"/>
Street Name	<input type="text"/>		
Apt/Suite	<input type="text"/>	City	<input type="text"/>
Postal	<input type="text"/>		
Country	<input type="text" value="Canada"/>	Province	<input type="text" value="Ontario"/>

Save and Exit



Terms of Use and Privacy Policy

Terms of Use

Guided Pathways End User Terms of Use

Welcome to the Guided Pathways website.

These Guided Pathways End User Terms of Use ("**Terms of Use**") apply to the Software Tool (defined below) provided by Community Legal Education Ontario ("**CLEO**") to you (referred to as "**you**" or "**user**"). The website is provided by CLEO as a free service.

By accepting these Terms of Use, you consent to the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information in accordance with the Privacy Policy.

Please make sure that you read these Terms of Use very carefully before you start using this website. Your "sign-in" to this website constitutes consent and acceptance of these Terms of Use. **CLEO may change or update these Terms of Use at any time without notice. Please review the link on a regular basis for any changes. If you continue to use this service after the Terms of Use have changed, you will be deemed to have accepted and consented to any changes.**

Your privacy is important to us. As part of our Terms of Use, we will keep your personal information private in accordance with our privacy policy, available at <https://www.cleointeractivehelp.ca/Login/PrivacyPolicy.aspx> ("**Privacy Policy**"). Any personal information provided through the website will be considered confidential and, except as set out in the Privacy Policy, we will not share your personal information with any third party, except if we are required to do so by law or as

☐ By ticking the box, you agree to be bound by these Terms of Use.

Security Check

Enter Code*

GBWMMN

Refresh

[Register](#) [Cancel](#)

Privacy and security

Privacy by design ■ Independently verified ■ Canada-based

2019 CLEO Family Law Guided Pathways: A Direct-to-Public Automated Legal Tool
<<https://cleoconnect.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2019.10-CLEO-submission-to-2019-Special-Lectures-Program-of-the-LSO.docx.pdf>>



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Guided Pathways

Navigating the family law process

Family Law Guided Pathways

Planning - Exploring your options

- Dispute resolution explorer
- Financial planning for separation

Starting a family law matter

- Simple or joint divorce
- Children, support, and property issues in separation and divorce
- Requesting a court fee waiver

Responding documents

- Answering a family law Application
- Replying to an Answer

Getting there (to settlement or trial)

- Case conference
- Completing net family property forms
- Settlement conference
- Making or responding to a motion
- Trial management

Orders, enforcement and changes

- Drafting an order
- Requesting a motion to change
- Responding to a motion to change
- Filing your support agreement for enforcement

Following the stages of a family law matter

01

Planning

ADR options, financial planning

02

Starting

Application, simple divorce

03

Responding

Answer, Reply

04

Getting there

Conferences, motions, trial management

05

Orders, etc.

Motions to change, orders, consent

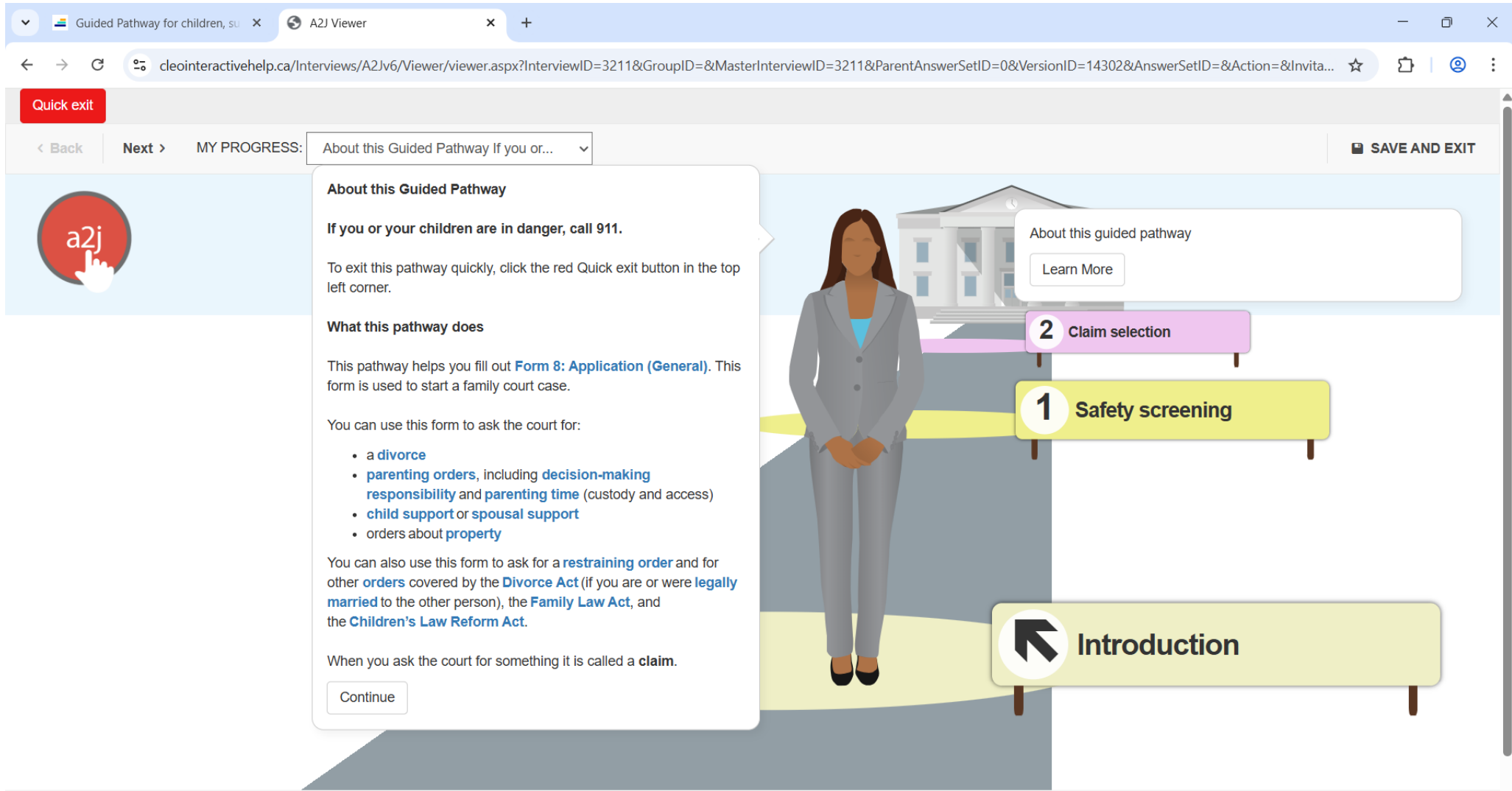


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How the pathways work

Introduction



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `cleointeractivehelp.ca/Interviews/A2Jv6/Viewer/viewer.aspx?InterviewID=3211&GroupID=&MasterInterviewID=3211&ParentAnswerSetID=0&VersionID=14302&AnswerSetID=&Action=&Invita...`. The interface includes a "Quick exit" button in the top left corner. Below the navigation bar, there is a "MY PROGRESS:" section with a dropdown menu showing "About this Guided Pathway If you or...". A large, semi-transparent information box titled "About this Guided Pathway" is displayed, containing the following text:

About this Guided Pathway

If you or your children are in danger, call 911.

To exit this pathway quickly, click the red Quick exit button in the top left corner.

What this pathway does

This pathway helps you fill out **Form 8: Application (General)**. This form is used to start a family court case.

You can use this form to ask the court for:

- a **divorce**
- **parenting orders**, including **decision-making responsibility** and **parenting time** (custody and access)
- **child support** or **spousal support**
- orders about **property**

You can also use this form to ask for a **restraining order** and for other **orders** covered by the **Divorce Act** (if you are or were **legally married** to the other person), the **Family Law Act**, and the **Children's Law Reform Act**.

When you ask the court for something it is called a **claim**.

[Continue](#)

On the right side of the screen, there is a vertical path with a woman standing in the center. The path has three main steps: "1 Safety screening" (yellow box), "2 Claim selection" (pink box), and "Introduction" (yellow box with a back arrow). A "Learn More" button is located near the top of the path. A "SAVE AND EXIT" button is in the top right corner.

Decision trees

Claims about your children

Check all the **claims** you want to make:

☐ **Child support**

☒ **Decision-making responsibility**

☐ **Parenting time**

☐ **Other parenting orders**

[Continue](#)



Decision-making responsibility

This section is about the **court order** you're asking for to decide who can make important decisions for your children.

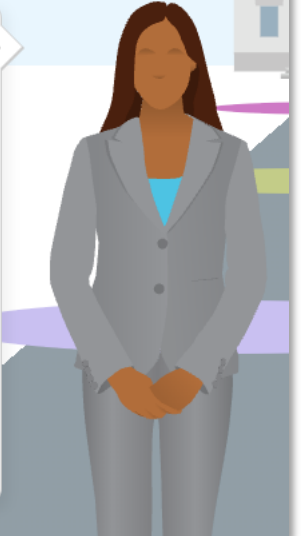
There are 3 main types of decision-making responsibility orders:

- **Sole decision-making responsibility**
- **Joint decision-making responsibility**
- **Divided decision-making responsibility**

There can be other kinds of decision-making responsibility orders.

If you're not sure what type of decision-making responsibility order you want, **talk to a lawyer**.

[Continue](#)



Blue text is clickable, opening a “popup”

Quick exit

< Back

Next >

MY PROGRESS: What you're asking the court to...

SAVE AND EXIT



What you're asking the court to decide

Form 8: Application (General) is used to ask the court to make decisions about different family law issues. These are called **claims**. A claim is something you want the court to decide about, like:

- **parenting time**
- **child or spousal support**
- **dividing property**

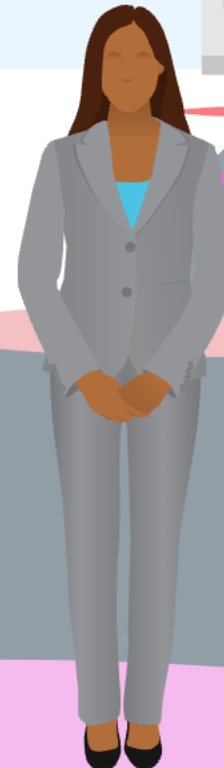
The next questions will ask about:

- your relationship
- whether you have children
- what **claims** you want to make

You can make one claim or more than one. Later, the pathway will ask for details about each claim you choose.

If you are not sure what claims to make, it's a good idea to **talk to a lawyer**.

Continue



5 Information about your relationship

4 Your partner's information

3 Your information

2 Claim selection

Blue text is clickable, opening a “popup”

[Quick exit](#)

[< Back](#) [Next >](#) MY PROGRESS: What you're asking the court to... [SAVE AND EXIT](#)



What you're asking the court

Form 8: Application (General) is the form that you use if you want to ask the court for something related to your spouse, partner, or children.

- [parenting time](#)
- [child or spousal support](#)
- [dividing property](#)

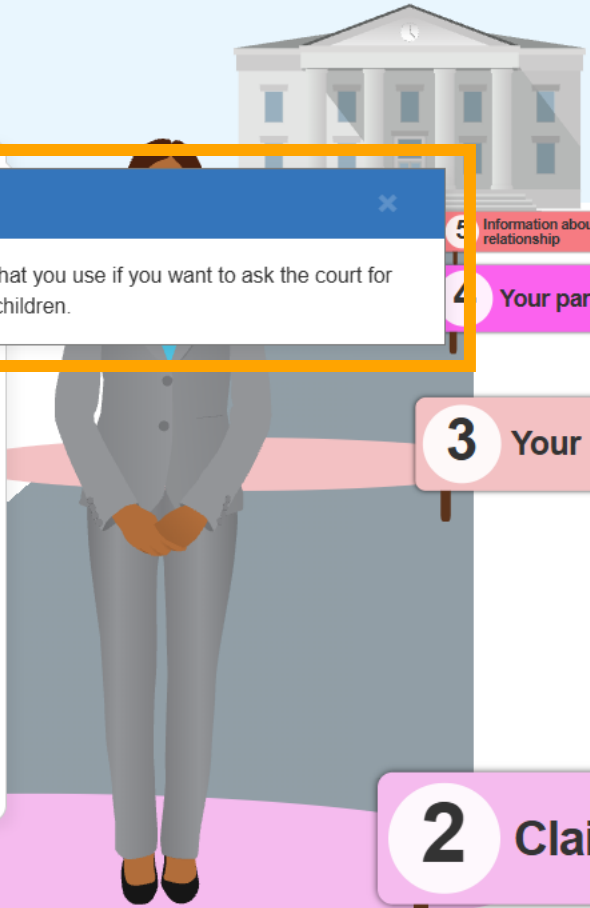
The next questions will ask about:

- your relationship
- whether you have children
- what [claims](#) you want to make

You can make one claim or more than one. Later, the pathway will ask for details about each claim you choose.

If you are not sure what claims to make, it's a good idea to [talk to a lawyer](#).

[Continue](#)



- Information about your relationship
- Claim selection**
- Your information**
- Your partner's information

Learn More

[Quick exit](#)

[< Back](#) [Next >](#) MY PROGRESS: Are you asking only for a divorce in... [SAVE AND EXIT](#)



Are you asking only for a **divorce** in the **Form 8**?

☐ Yes

☒ No

[Continue](#)

How to answer this

[Learn More](#)

2 Claim selection

1 Safety screening

[Introduction](#)



Learn More

[Quick exit](#)

[< Back](#) [Next >](#) MY PROGRESS: Are you asking only for a divorce in... [SAVE AND EXIT](#)



Are you asking only for a divorce in the Form 8?

☐ Yes

☒ No

[Continue](#)

How to answer this

Select **Yes** if you're filling out **Form 8** to ask for a **divorce** only, and you have no other issues for the court.

Select **No** if you're filling out **Form 8** to ask for a **divorce** and other things like:

- **decision-making responsibility**
- **parenting time**
- **child support**
- **spousal support**
- **dividing property**

 [Introduction](#)

Hyperlinks

What you're asking the court for

The **Form 8: Application (General)** lets you ask the court for a number of things. These are called [claims](#).

What you can ask for depends on your situation, for example, the type of relationship you're in and whether you have children.

The next set of questions asks about your relationship, whether you have children, and what claims you want to make.

Later, you'll give details about each claim that you choose.

If you don't understand what a claim means, check out the [pop-up definition](#). If you still aren't sure whether it applies to you, you may want to [get legal advice](#).

Continue

Where can I find a lawyer to help with my family law issue?

NEXT STEPS

1. Think about what you need >
2. Find a lawyer >
3. Talk to the lawyer >
4. Meet with your lawyer >
5. Sign your retainer agreement and pay a deposit >

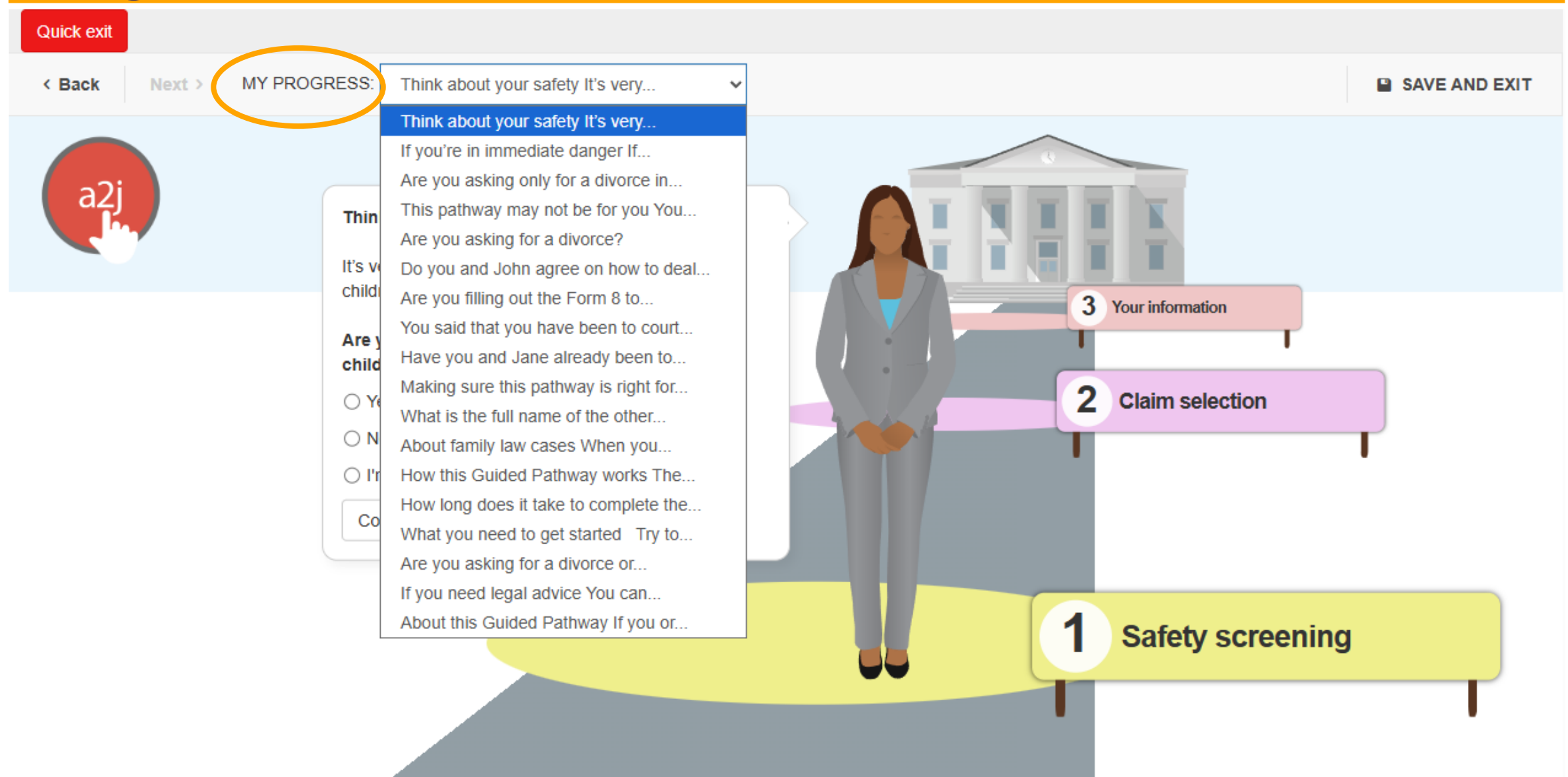
You don't have to hire a lawyer to help you with your family law issues. But, a lawyer can help you understand your legal rights and responsibilities, and the options you have.

Responsibilities are what the law says you have to do after you separate or **divorce** and rights are what the law says you can get.

Lawyers can give legal advice. This means they can explain what the law says and how it applies to your specific legal problem. They can also:

- Give you advice on things like the [rules you must follow to make your separation agreement legal](#).

Progress bar



The screenshot shows a web-based progress bar for a legal aid service. At the top left is a red 'Quick exit' button. Below it are navigation links: '< Back' and 'Next >'. A yellow circle highlights the 'MY PROGRESS:' dropdown menu, which is currently open, showing a list of topics including 'Think about your safety It's very...', 'If you're in immediate danger If...', 'Are you asking only for a divorce in...', 'This pathway may not be for you You...', 'Are you asking for a divorce?', 'Do you and John agree on how to deal...', 'Are you filling out the Form 8 to...', 'You said that you have been to court...', 'Have you and Jane already been to...', 'Making sure this pathway is right for...', 'What is the full name of the other...', 'About family law cases When you...', 'How this Guided Pathway works The...', 'How long does it take to complete the...', 'What you need to get started Try to...', 'Are you asking for a divorce or...', 'If you need legal advice You can...', and 'About this Guided Pathway If you or...'. To the right of the dropdown is a 'SAVE AND EXIT' button. The main area features a woman in a grey suit walking along a path towards a classical building. The path is divided into three colored sections, each with a numbered step: 1. Safety screening (yellow), 2. Claim selection (purple), and 3. Your information (pink). A red circular button with 'a2j' and a hand icon is on the left. The background is a light blue sky.

Quick exit

< Back Next > MY PROGRESS: Think about your safety It's very... Think about your safety It's very... If you're in immediate danger If... Are you asking only for a divorce in... This pathway may not be for you You... Are you asking for a divorce? Do you and John agree on how to deal... Are you filling out the Form 8 to... You said that you have been to court... Have you and Jane already been to... Making sure this pathway is right for... What is the full name of the other... About family law cases When you... How this Guided Pathway works The... How long does it take to complete the... What you need to get started Try to... Are you asking for a divorce or... If you need legal advice You can... About this Guided Pathway If you or...

SAVE AND EXIT

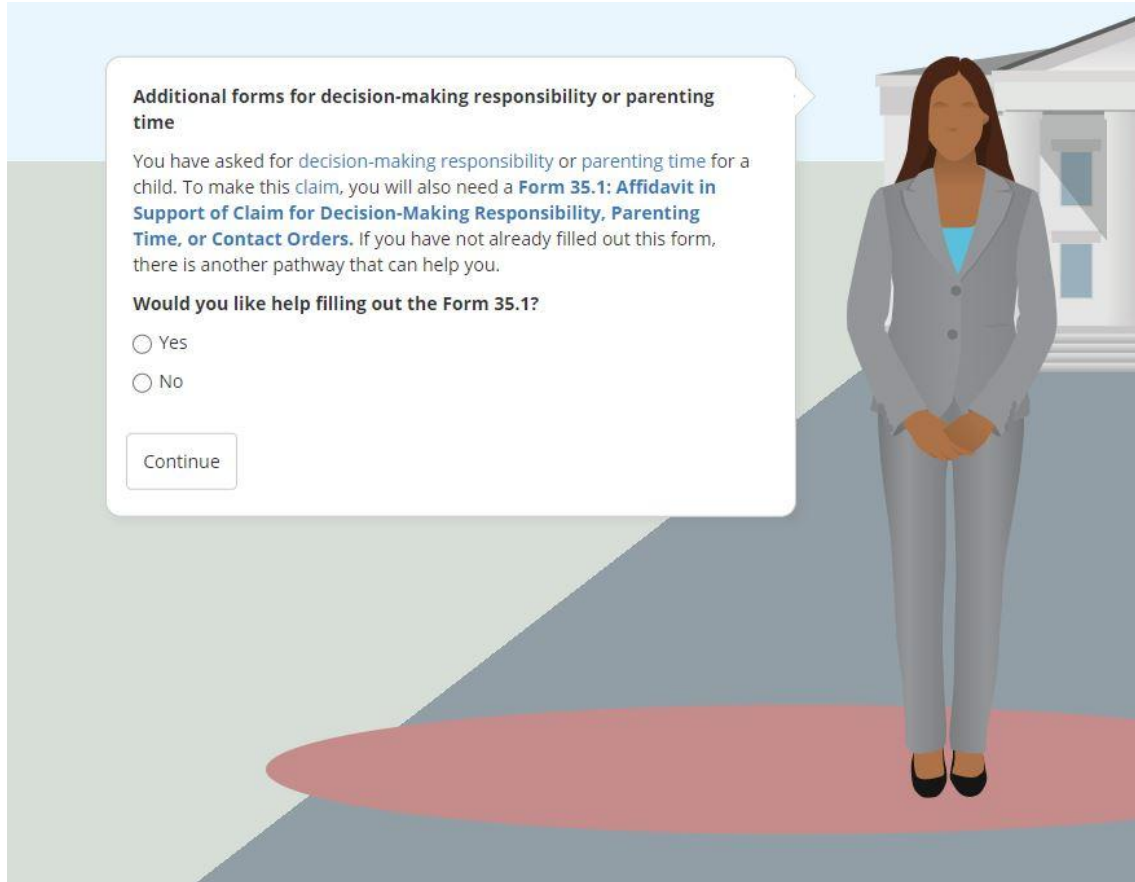
a2j

1 Safety screening

2 Claim selection

3 Your information

Help with additional forms

An illustration of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a grey suit and black shoes, standing on a red oval path. In the background, there is a white building with columns.

Additional forms for decision-making responsibility or parenting time

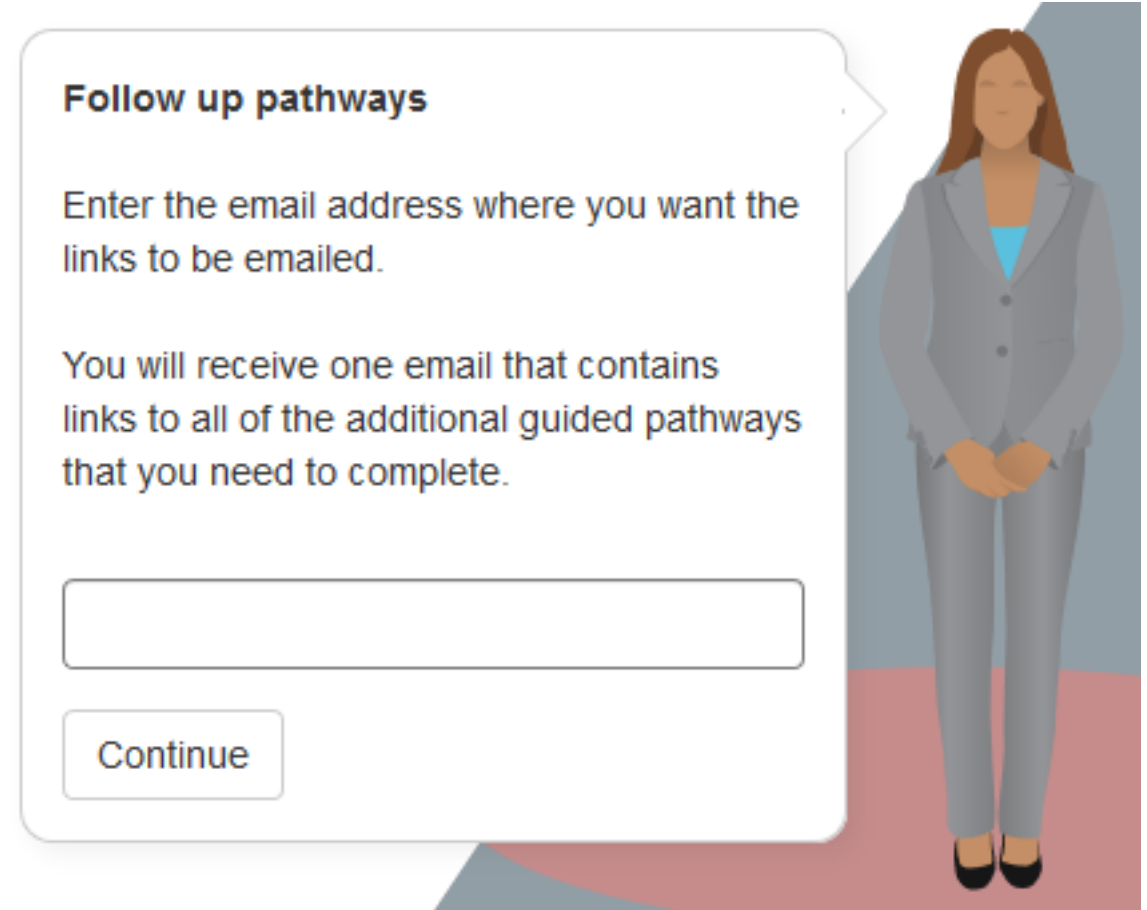
You have asked for decision-making responsibility or parenting time for a child. To make this claim, you will also need a **Form 35.1: Affidavit in Support of Claim for Decision-Making Responsibility, Parenting Time, or Contact Orders**. If you have not already filled out this form, there is another pathway that can help you.

Would you like help filling out the Form 35.1?

☐ Yes

☐ No

[Continue](#)

An illustration of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a grey suit and black shoes, standing on a red oval path. In the background, there is a white building with columns.

Follow up pathways

Enter the email address where you want the links to be emailed.

You will receive one email that contains links to all of the additional guided pathways that you need to complete.

[Continue](#)

Pathway outputs

Completes court forms and documents

Enter your name and date of birth:

First name: (Required)
Jane

Middle names:
Smith

Last name: (Required)
Doe

Date of birth: (Required)
01/01/1980
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Continue

ONTARIO
[SEAL] Superior Court of Justice Family Court Branch
(Name of court)
at 75 Mulcaster Street, Barrie, ON, L4M3P2
Court office address

Court File Number

Form 8: Application (General)

Applicant(s)
Full legal name: Jane Smith Doe
Address: 1 Main St Unit 1, Toronto, Ontario A1A 1A1
Phone & fax: Phone: 111-111-1111 Fax: A1234567
Email: Janedoe@gmail.com

Applicant(s) Lawyer
Name:
Address:
Phone & fax:
Email:

Respondent(s)
Full legal name: John Wright Doe
Address: 2 Main St Unit 2, Toronto, Ontario A2A 2A2
Phone & fax: Phone: 222-222-2222 Fax: B1234567
Email: Johndoe@gmail.com

Respondent(s) Lawyer
Name:
Address:
Phone & fax:
Email:

TO THE RESPONDENT(S):
A COURT CASE HAS BEEN STARTED AGAINST YOU IN THIS COURT. THE DETAILS ARE SET OUT ON THE ATTACHED PAGES.
☐ THE FIRST COURT DATE IS (date) AT ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m.
or as soon as possible after that time, at: (address)

ONTARIO
Superior Court of Justice Family Court Branch
(Name of court)
at 75 Mulcaster Street, Barrie, ON, L4M3P2
Court office address

Court File Number

Form 6B: Affidavit of Service sworn/affirmed

Applicant(s)
Full legal name & address for service — street & number, municipality, postal code, telephone & fax numbers and e-mail address (if any).
Jane Smith Doe
1 Main St Unit 1, Toronto, Ontario A1A 1A1 Phone: 111-111-1111 Fax: A1234567 Email: Janedoe@gmail.com

Respondent(s)
Full legal name & address for service — street & number, municipality, postal code, telephone & fax numbers and e-mail address (if any).
John Wright Doe
2 Main St Unit 2, Toronto, Ontario A2A 2A2 Phone: 222-222-2222 Fax: B1234567 Email: Johndoe@gmail.com

Lawyer's name & address — street & number, municipality, postal code, telephone & fax numbers and e-mail address (if any).

My name is (full legal name)
I live in (municipality & province)
and I swear/affirm that the following is true:

1. On (date) , at (time) , I served (name of person to be served) John Wright Doe with the following document(s) in this case:

Name of document	Author (if applicable)	Date when document signed, issued, sworn, etc.
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

Completes court forms and documents

What **decision making**-arrangement are you asking for?

☒ Sole decision-making responsibility

☐ Joint decision-making responsibility

☐ Divided decision-making responsibility

Continue

Enter the name and date of birth of the first child:

First name: (Required)

Emily

Middle names:

Last name: (Required)

Doe

Date of birth: (Required)

02/01/2010
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Continue

Enter the schedule you think would be in Emily's **best interests**:

Emily will stay at John's every Friday night.

Continue

Form 8: Application (General) - Schedule A

Re: DOE, Jane

Page 1 of 2

Give details of the order that you want the court to make. (Include any amounts of support (if known) and the names of the children for who support, decision-making responsibility, or parenting time is claimed.)

1. An order for a divorce.

PARENTING ORDERS

1. An Order for sole decision-making responsibility for Emily Doe born February 01, 2010.

2. An order for parenting time for Emily Doe born February 01, 2010 in accordance with the following schedule: Emily will stay at John's every Friday night.

Sample: Completed Form 8

ONTARIO

[SEAL] Superior Court of Justice
(Name of court)

at 361 University Avenue, ON, M5G1T3
Court office address

Form 8: Application (General)

Applicant(s)

Full legal name: Jane Doe
Address: 123 Test Street, Toronto, Ontario A1A 2B2
Phone & fax: Phone: 111-111-1111
Email: jane.doe@fakeemail.com

Applicant(s) Lawyer

Name:
Address:
Phone & fax:
Email:

Respondent(s)

Full legal name: John Doe
Address: 55 Orange Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario B2B 3C3
Phone & fax: Phone: 222-222-2222
Email: john.doe@fakeemail.com

Respondent(s) Lawyer

Name:
Address:
Phone & fax:
Email:

TO THE RESPONDENT(S):

A COURT CASE HAS BEEN STARTED AGAINST YOU IN THIS COURT. THE DETAILS ARE SET OUT ON THE ATTACHED PAGES.

☐ THE FIRST COURT DATE IS (date) AT ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m.
or as soon as possible after that time, at: (address)

NOTE: If this is a divorce case, no date will be set unless an Answer is filed. If you have also been served with a notice of motion, there may be an earlier court date and you or your lawyer should come to court for the motion.

☐ THIS CASE IS ON THE FAST TRACK OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. A case management judge will be assigned by the time this case first comes before a judge.

☐ THIS CASE IS ON THE STANDARD TRACK OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. No court date has been set for this case but, if you have been served with a notice of motion, it has a court date and you or your lawyer should come to court for the motion. A case management judge will not be assigned until one of the parties asks the clerk of the court to schedule a case conference or until a motion is scheduled, whichever comes first.

IF, AFTER 365 DAYS, THE CASE HAS NOT BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TRIAL, the clerk of the court will send out a warning that the case will be dismissed within 60 days unless the parties file proof that the case has been settled or one of the parties asks for a case or a settlement conference.

IF YOU WANT TO OPPOSE ANY CLAIM IN THIS CASE, you or your lawyer must prepare an Answer (Form 10 – a blank copy should be attached), serve a copy on the applicant(s) and file a copy in the court office with an Affidavit of Service (Form 6B). YOU HAVE ONLY 30 DAYS AFTER THIS APPLICATION IS SERVED ON YOU (60 DAYS IF THIS APPLICATION IS SERVED ON YOU OUTSIDE CANADA OR THE UNITED STATES) TO SERVE AND FILE AN ANSWER. IF YOU DO NOT, THE CASE WILL GO AHEAD WITHOUT YOU AND THE COURT MAY MAKE AN ORDER AND ENFORCE IT AGAINST YOU.

Form 8: Application (General) (page 3)

Court file number

FAMILY HISTORY

APPLICANT: Age: 37 Birthdate: (d, m, y) 17/02/1989
Resident in (municipality & province) Toronto, Ontario since (date)
First name on the day before the marriage date: Jane
Last name on the day before the marriage date: Doe
Gender on the day before the marriage date:
☐ Male ☒ Female ☐ Another gender
Divorced before? ☒ No ☐ Yes (Place and date of previous divorce)

RESPONDENT: Age: 38 Birthdate: (d, m, y) 18/02/1988
Resident in (municipality & province) Hamilton, Ontario since (date)
First name on the day before the marriage date: John
Last name on the day before the marriage date: Doe
Gender on the day before the marriage date:
☒ Male ☐ Female ☐ Another gender ☐ Gender information not available
Divorced before? ☒ No ☐ Yes (Place and date of previous divorce)

RELATIONSHIP DATES:
☒ Married on (date) 18/07/2015 ☒ Started living together on (date) 01/03/2016
☒ Separated on (date) 16/01/2025 ☐ Never lived together ☐ Still living together

THE CHILD(REN)
List all children involved in this case, even if no claim is made for these children.

Full legal name	Age	Birthdate (d, m, y)	Resident in (municipality & province)	Now Living With (name of person and relationship to child)
Timothy James Doe	7	15/02/2019	Toronto, Ontario	Jane Doe, Mother
Jennifer Marie Doe	2	04/02/2024	Toronto, Ontario	Jane Doe, Mother

PREVIOUS CASES OR AGREEMENTS

Have the parties or the children been in a court case before?
☒ No ☐ Yes

Have the parties made a written agreement dealing with any matter involved in this case?
☒ No ☐ Yes (Give date of agreement. Indicate which of its terms are in dispute.)

Sample: Completed Form 8: Schedule A



Form 8: Application (General) - Schedule A

Re: DOE, Jane
Page 1 of 4

Give details of the order that you want the court to make. (Include any amounts of support (if known) and the names of the children for who support, decision-making responsibility, or parenting time is claimed.)

1. An order for a divorce.

PARENTING ORDERS

1. An Order that Applicant and Respondent share joint decision-making responsibility for Timothy James Doe born February 15, 2019, Jennifer Marie Doe born February 04, 2024.

2. An Order for parenting time with Timothy James Doe born February 15, 2019, Jennifer Marie Doe born February 04, 2024 in accordance with the following schedule: Timothy and Jennifer will spend Sunday - Thursday with me. They will spend Friday - Monday with John.

SUPPORT

3. An Order that Respondent shall pay child support to Applicant on behalf of Timothy James Doe born February 15, 2019, Jennifer Marie Doe born February 04, 2024 in the amount of \$1139 per month commencing March 08, 2026 and based on the Respondent's annual income of \$75000 and the Child Support Guideline amount for 2 children with credit for amounts paid to date.

4. An Order that the parties shall share current and future special and extraordinary expenses for the children in proportion to their respective incomes. For the year 2026. Respondent's income is \$75000 and Applicant's income is \$45000

The special and extraordinary expenses include:
I pay \$3,500 a month for a daycare program for the children.

5. An order for spousal support by way of periodic payment in the monthly amount of \$500 from and after March 08, 2026.

OTHER

6. An Order for equalization of the parties' net family property.

7. Such other and further relief that this Honorable Court deems just.

IMPORTANT FACTS SUPPORTING MY OTHER CLAIM(S)

(Set out below the facts that form the legal basis for your other claim(s).)

BACKGROUND

8. The parties were married on July 18, 2015.

9. The parties have 2 children of the relationship, namely: Timothy James Doe born February 15, 2019, Jennifer Marie Doe born February 04, 2024.

10. The parties began cohabitating on March 01, 2016.

Form 8: Application (General) - Schedule A

Re: DOE, Jane
Page 2 of 4

11. The parties separated on January 16, 2025.

12. The Applicant has an annual income of \$45000 and the Respondent has an annual income of \$75000.

PARENTING ORDERS – BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN

13. Timothy James Doe has the following unique needs or circumstances: aga, which have the following impact on parenting orders:

Nature and strength of the children's relationships:

14. Prior to separation, the relationship between the children and the Applicant was as follows: My relationship with the children was very close. I put them to bed every night and would take them to playdates and doctor appointments. The children enjoyed reading with me and walking to the parks on the weekend.

15. Prior to separation, the relationship between the children and the Respondent was as follows: The children had a good relationship with John. He would help with putting them to bed and take them to playdates and to important medical appointments. He also helped prepare their meals.

Supporting the children's relationships:

16. The Applicant has supported the Respondent's relationship with the children in the following ways: We've made cards and gifts for John's birthday and Father's Day. I've always made sure the children are packed and ready for their visits with John.

17. The Applicant will support the Respondent's relationship with the children in the following ways: I'll keep encouraging regular contact and make sure the children talk to John. I'll continue to include John in important updates about Timothy's health when he cannot attend doctor appointments.

18. The Respondent has supported the Applicant's relationship with the children in the following ways: John lets me Facetime and call the children when they are with him but it is always me that has to remind me to let me speak to Timothy and Jennifer. He also told the children that I am the one who wanted to separate.

History of care:

19. Aspects of parenting generally handled by the Applicant: I took care of most of the parenting duties, including preparing meals, helping the children with their hygiene, and scheduling and attending medical and dental appointments and playdates.

20. Aspects of parenting generally handled by the Respondent: John assisted with all the bedtime duties and taking the children to their extracurricular activities on the weekends. He would help with preparing meals and attended medical and dental appointments when he could.

21. There have been changes in how important decisions about education, medical care, and extracurricular activities are made: Before we separated I handled all of the daycare drop-offs and most of the meal preparation during the day, eating dinner with the children everyday. Now I only daycare drop-offs four times a week and no longer get to eat dinner with the children every day. I also attend less weekend activities with the children.

Next steps

Checklist of your family law forms

- ☒ Form 8: Application (General)
- ☒ Form 6: Acknowledgement of Service
- ☒ Form 6B: Affidavit of Service
- ☒ Cumulative Table of Contents
- ☒ Cover Continuing Record
- ☒ Cover Endorsements Record
- ☒ Endorsements Page
- ☐ Form 35.1: Affidavit in Support of Claim for Custody or Access

See the instructions document for information about what to do with your forms.

Instructions for starting your family court case

Table of Contents

Step 1: Check, print and sign your documents.....	1
Step 2: Collect any additional documents.....	3
Step 3: Find out if you have to complete other court forms.....	4
Step 4: Prepare your application for Family court.....	5
Step 5: Give your documents and payment to the court	8
Step 6: Arrange for your spouse, partner, or child's other parent to get a copy of your documents.....	11
Step 7: Give the court proof that your documents were served.....	12
Step 8: Wait 30 days for a response.....	14



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The Guided Pathways family law collection



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True or False?

Every family law Guided Pathway is designed to produce a court form.



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Planning: exploring your options

Planning: exploring your options

01

Planning

ADR options, financial planning

02

Starting

Application, simple divorce

03

Responding

Answer, Reply

04

Getting there

Conferences, motions, trial management

05

Orders, etc.

Motions to change, orders, consent

Family dispute resolution options



Explore dispute resolution options
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to decide what processes may work best to help you and your partner resolve conflict and agree on issues, when you separate or divorce. If you have to go to court, this pathway can help you find the right court and location.

Financial planning for separation



Plan for your financial future
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use if you want help to think about how your finances may change after you separate or divorce, plan for these changes and your future, and make a detailed monthly budget.



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Exploring your options

Family dispute resolution explorer

Dispute resolution explorer

Family dispute resolution options



**Explore dispute
resolution options**
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to decide what processes may work best to help you and your partner resolve conflict and agree on issues, when you separate or divorce. If you have to go to court, this pathway can help you find the right court and location.

Who is this pathway for?

This Guided Pathway provides information for couples — **married** or **common-law** — who are **separating** or **divorcing**. It can help you decide what **dispute resolution process** **may** work best for your situation.

The pathway gives information about different **considerations** that could affect whether a **dispute resolution process** is likely to work for you or not. You can decide which of these considerations and processes you want to learn more about.

The pathway can be useful to you, whether or not you have a lawyer, and whether or not you're involved in legal proceedings.

This pathway can help you:

- understand the **dispute resolution** options available to you
- choose the best option or combination of options for your situation
- access services in your community
- if you have to **go to court**, find the right court and location where your court matter should be heard

Dispute resolution processes

Dispute resolution processes

This pathway provides information on six different dispute resolution processes:

- **Negotiation**
- **Mediation**
- **Collaborative Family Law**
- **Mediation-arbitration**
- **Arbitration**
- **Litigation** (going to court)

All of these are **alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes**, except for litigation. This pathway will help you decide if an ADR process may work for you.

Continue

Personalized checklist

Create your own personalized checklist

The pathway allows you to save information that's important to you in a **personalized checklist**. Wherever you see **Add to my checklist**, you can check this box to save the information.

On many screens, there's a **Notes** section where you can write down your thoughts. You can fill out the notes section or leave it blank.

At the end of the pathway, you can download and save or print your checklist. It will contain all the information you selected throughout the pathway and your notes.

Below is an example of the checkbox:

☐ Add to my checklist

Notes:

This is an example of the Notes section.

Continue

Considerations

This step of the pathway provides information on **considerations** or issues that often come up when people are **separating** or **divorcing**.

These can help you decide what **dispute resolution process** (or processes) may work best for your particular situation:

- **Safety**
- **Urgency**
- **Balance of power**
- **Communication and cooperation**
- **Compromise**
- **Emotions**
- **Control of process**
- **Budget**
- **Privacy** and **disclosure**

The next screens give you an introduction to each consideration, and then allow you to select the ones you want to learn more about.

At the end of this step, you'll have a chance to write down any other considerations that are important to you. The pathway will add them to your **personalized checklist**.

Continue

Considerations in choosing an ADR route

What legal issues do you need to think about?

The next few screens provide information on some of the common legal issues that come up when people are **separating**. They can help you think about whether or not you and your partner agree on these issues.

Select which ones you would like to learn more about. If you're not interested in learning about these issues, press continue without selecting any of the checkboxes.

- ☒ **Children**
- ☐ **Dividing property**
- ☐ **Spousal support**
- ☐ **Divorce**
- ☒ **Safety**

Continue

Children

You and your partner may have to make decisions about:

- **decision-making responsibility**, which used to be called "custody"
- **parenting time**, which used to be called "access"
- **child support**

Couples have the same decision-making responsibility, parenting time, and child support rights and responsibilities whether they're **married** or in a **common-law** relationship.

☐ Add to my checklist

Continue

Safety

If you or your children have experienced **family violence**, you may want to think about safety measures you may need like:

- making a **safety plan** to leave your home to keep you and your children safe
- getting a **restraining order** to stop your partner from contacting you
- getting an order for **exclusive possession of the matrimonial home** so that you and your children can stay in the home temporarily
- getting a **non-removal order** to stop your partner from taking your children out of the province or country

☐ Add to my checklist

Continue

Further considerations – Ex. balance of power

Balance of power

This section is about factors in your relationship that can influence the balance of power between you and your partner. When you're **separating** or **divorcing**, you may have, or feel you have, more or less power for many different reasons.

The next screen lists some factors that could influence the balance of power between you and your partner.

For each of these factors, think about whether you have, or feel you have:

- equal power with your partner
- less power than your partner
- more power than your partner

Taking all these factors into account, and any others that are important to you, think about the power balance in your relationship overall.

☐ Add to my checklist

Notes:

Continue



Factors that could influence the balance of power

There are different factors that can affect how much power you have, or feel that you have in a relationship, when you're **separating** or **divorcing**.

Check off any of the topics below you would like to learn more about:

- ☐ **Tolerance for conflict**
- ☐ **Reasons for separation or divorce**
- ☐ **Finances**
- ☐ **Education**
- ☐ **Language and literacy**
- ☐ **Race and culture**
- ☐ **Disability**
- ☐ **Parenting decisions**
- ☐ Skip to the next consideration (**communication and cooperation**)

Continue



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Exploring your options

Financial planning for separation

Financial planning

Financial planning for separation



Plan for your financial future
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use if you want help to think about how your finances may change after you separate or divorce, plan for these changes and your future, and make a detailed monthly budget.

Who is this pathway for?

This pathway is for people who are thinking about [separating](#) or who are in the process of separating.

The pathway asks you questions to help you think about factors that can impact your financial future, and the financial future of your family.

The pathway guides you through the details of [income](#), [expenses](#), [assets](#), and [debts](#) to give you a better sense of:

- what your budget looks like now
- what your budget will look like after you separate
- how you can plan for financial changes

What you need to get started

It's a good idea to gather the information listed below before you use the budgeting tool. It will make it easier.

You can still use the tool without this information, but you'll need to revise your budget later. If you don't have exact information about your finances, your budget will be more of an estimate.

Information to have ready if you can:

- Copies of your personal [income tax returns](#) and your [notices of assessment](#) from the [Canada Revenue Agency](#) for the last 3 years
- Documents showing any income that you usually get, for example, from [employment](#), [social assistance](#), a [pension](#), or workers' compensation
- A statement of [income](#) and [expenses](#), if you're [self-employed](#)
- Receipts, bills, bank account statements, or any other information that shows your regular monthly expenses
- Information about your [property](#), including all of your [assets](#) and [debts](#).

Budgeting categories

- ☐ Step 2: Work (15-45 minutes)
- ☐ Step 3: Savings, Investments, and Other Income (15-30 minutes)
- ☐ Step 4: Housing (15-30 minutes)
- ☐ Step 5: Housing - Utilities (15-30 minutes)
- ☐ Step 6: Transportation (15-30 minutes)
- ☐ Step 7: Health (estimated time: 30-45 minutes)
- ☐ Step 8: Children, household, and insurance expenses (estimated time: 30-45 minutes)
- ☐ Step 9: Personal (estimated time: 15-30 minutes)
- ☐ Step 10: Debts (estimated time: 15-30 minutes)
- ☐ Step 11: Other assets and expenses (estimated time: 15-30 minutes)

Continue

What timeframe would you like to use for future budgeting?

- ☐ 6 months after separation
- ☐ 1 year after separation
- ☐ 5 years after separation
- ☐ Other

Budget now, after and later

Readiness for new financial situation

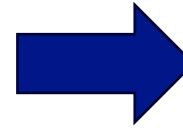
It's important to be as ready as possible for your new financial situation. Here are some things to think about:

Will you want a new bank account?

If yes,

- At what bank?
- Who will have access to these funds?
- What money will be deposited to this new account?
- When will you start depositing money to this new account?

Continue



Personal monthly budget

Overview

Income/Expenses		Current	5 years
Total monthly income		6,300.00	5,900.00
Total monthly expenses	Housing and utilities	-2,036.00	-1,836.00
	Transportation	-595.00	-625.00
	Health	-395.00	-270.00
	Children	-670.00	-495.00
	Household	-595.00	-535.00
	Education and personal costs	-480.00	-400.00
	Other expenses	-250.00	0.00
	Debt repayments	-350.00	-200.00
Difference		929.00	1,539.00



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Starting a family law matter

Starting court proceedings



Starting a family law matter

Children, support, and property issues in separation and divorce

 **Fill out Form 8**
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to ask the court for:

- decision-making responsibility, which used to be called child custody
- parenting time, which used to be called child access
- child support
- spousal support
- property division
- other family law orders like a restraining order
- a divorce with one or more of these other orders

Simple or joint divorce

 **Fill out Form 8A**
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to ask the court for:

- a divorce only without other orders
- a divorce jointly with your spouse, which can include other orders if you both agree

Request a court fee waiver

 **Fill out a fee waiver request form**
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to request a fee waiver for your civil, small claims, or family law case.



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Starting a family law matter

Form 8: Application

Children, support, and property issues in separation and divorce



Fill out Form 8
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to ask the court for:

- decision-making responsibility, which used to be called child custody
- parenting time, which used to be called child access
- child support
- spousal support
- property division
- other family law orders like a restraining order
- a divorce with one or more of these other orders

Who is this pathway for?

You can use this pathway if you want to ask the court for:

- decision-making responsibility, which used to be called child custody
- parenting time, which used to be called child access
- child support
- spousal support
- property division
- other family law orders like a restraining order
- a divorce together with any other orders dealing with the issues above

If you're asking for a divorce, you or your spouse must have lived in Ontario for the past 12 months. And if you're asking for anything related to your children, they must live in Ontario.

What do you need to get started?

What you need to get started

Try to collect as much information as possible before you start the pathway.

What type of information and documents you need depends on what you're asking the court for. For example, you might need:

- any **agreements** you already have about your children, **child** or **spousal support**, a **Notice of Calculation** or **Notice of Recalculation** related to support
- if you're asking for child or spousal support, information about your **income**, and if you have it, the other person's income
- if you're asking for a **parenting order**, information about your children's schedules and any special needs they have
- if you're **married**, your date of marriage
- names, birth dates, and the dates and locations of any previous **divorces** for you and the other person in your case
- if you have children, their names, and birth dates, and where they live now

Continue



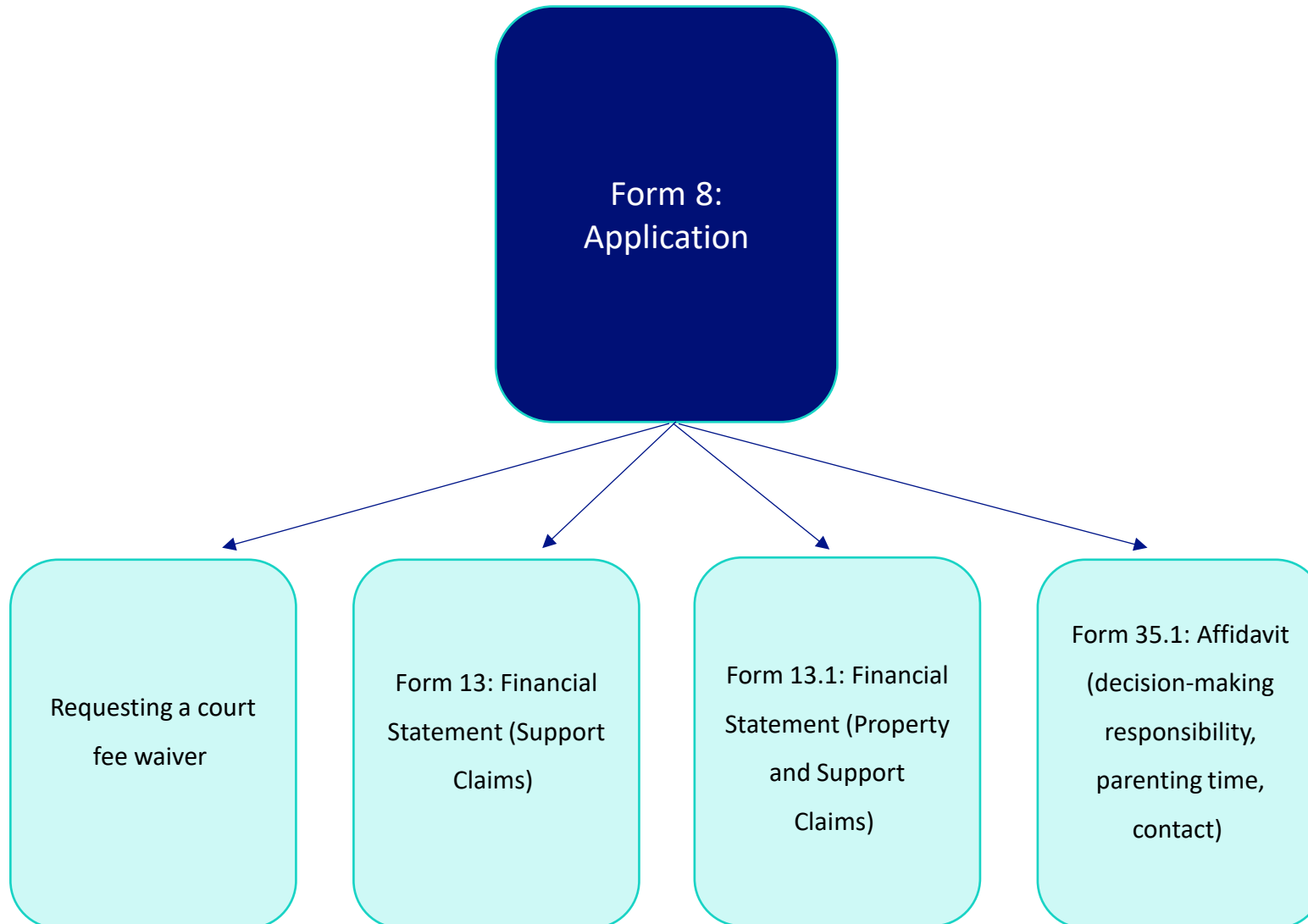
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True or False?

The Guided Pathways' assistance with starting a family law matter ends once the Form 8 is completed.

Additional pathways supporting an Application





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Completing the Form 8: Application

Guided Pathway for children, su

A2J Viewer

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Quick exit

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: What you need to get started Try to...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

What you need to get started

Try to collect as much information as possible before you start the pathway.

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- if you're asking for a **parenting order**, information about your children's schedules and any special needs they have
- if you're **married**, your date of marriage
- names, birth dates, and the dates and locations of any previous **divorces** for you and the other person in your case
- if you have children, their names, and birth dates, and where they live now

Continue

2 Claim selection

1 Safety screening

Introduction

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Quick exit

< Back Next > MY PROGRESS: Making sure this pathway is right for... ▾

SAVE AND EXIT



Making sure this pathway is right for you

The next questions help make sure this pathway is right for you.

Continue



2 Claim selection

1 Safety screening

Introduction

Picking your claims

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A2J Viewer

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☆

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MY PROGRESS: Claims about your relationship If... ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Claims about your relationship

If you don't want to ask for any of these, leave them blank. You'll see more options on the next few screens.

Check all the **claims** you want to make:

☐ Divorce

☐ Spousal support

Continue

4 Your partner's information

3 Your information

2 Claim selection

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☆

Quick exit

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MY PROGRESS: Claims about your relationship If...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Claims about your relationship

If you don't want to ask for more options on the next screen, click here.

Check all the claims

☐ Divorce

☐ Spousal support

Continue

Spousal support

Spousal support is money paid by one spouse to the other spouse after they separate or divorce. You don't automatically get spousal support. You must show the court that you have a legal right to get it.

If spousal support is paid, the person with the higher income almost always pays it to the person with the lower income. The [Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines](#) help lawyers and judges figure out how much and how long support needs to be paid.

Your partner's information

Your information

2 Claim selection

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MY PROGRESS: Claims about your relationship If... ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

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Claims about your relationship

If you don't want to ask for any of these, leave them blank. You'll see more options on the next few screens.

Check all the **claims** you want to make:

☒ Divorce

☒ Spousal support

Continue

4 Your partner's information

3 Your information

2 Claim selection

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☆

Quick exit

< Back

Next >

MY PROGRESS: Claims about your children Check... ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Claims about your children

Check all the **claims** you want to make:

☐ Child support

☐ Decision-making responsibility

☐ Parenting time

☐ Other parenting orders

Continue

4 Your partner's information

3 Your information

2 Claim selection

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Guided Pathway for children, su

A2J Viewer

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☆

Quick exit

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: Claims about your children Check...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Claims about your children

Check all the claims

☐ Child support

☐ Decision-making

☐ Parenting time

☐ Other parenting c

Continue

Decision-making responsibility means the responsibility for making important decisions about your child's well-being. This includes decisions about their:

• health

• education

• culture, language, religion, and spirituality

• important extra-curricular activities

Your partner's information

Your information

2 Claim selection

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MY PROGRESS: Claims about your children Check...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Claims about your children

Check all the claims

☐ Child support

☐ Decision-making

☐ Parenting time

☐ Other parenting c

Continue

Parenting time

is the time that your child spends in the care of a parent, step-parent, or someone else who acts as a parent to your child.

Your parenting time might include time when your child is not with you. For example, you might have parenting time from Wednesday at 5 p.m. until Thursday at 6 p.m., even though your child is in school on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If your child was sick on Thursday, you would be responsible for them.

Your partner's information

Your information

2

Claim selection

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Quick exit

< Back

Next >

MY PROGRESS: Claims about your children Check... ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Claims about your children

Check all the **claims** you want to make:

☒ Child support

☒ Decision-making responsibility

☒ Parenting time

☐ Other parenting orders

Continue

4 Your partner's information

3 Your information

2 Claim selection

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Quick exit

< Back

Next >

MY PROGRESS: Claims about property Check all...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Claims about property

Check all the **claims** you want to make:

☒ Equalization of net family properties

☐ Exclusive possession of matrimonial home

☐ Exclusive possession of contents of matrimonial home

☐ Sale of family property

☐ Freezing assets

☐ Guardianship over child's property

Continue

4 Your partner's information

3 Your information

2 Claim selection

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Quick exit

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MY PROGRESS: Other claims Check off all...

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Other claims

Check off all the **claims** you want to make:

☐ Restraining/non-harassment order

☐ Declaration of parentage

☐ Costs

☐ Annulment of marriage

☐ Prejudgment interest

☐ Claims relating to a family arbitration

☐ Other

Continue

2

Claim selection

3

Your information

4

Your partner's information

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Information about your relationship

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MY PROGRESS: Date of your marriage to John: ▾

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Date of your marriage to John:

Jun2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

7 Parenting

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Quick exit

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: When did you and John start living... ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

When did you and John start living together?

08/31/2019

(mm/dd/yyyy)

☒ Date is approximate

Continue

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Quick exit

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: Are you and John still living together? ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Are you and John still living together?

☐ No

☐ Yes, not as a couple

☐ Yes, as a couple

Continue

Read before answering

Learn More

7 Parenting

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: Are you and John still living together? ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Are you and John still living together?

☐ No

☐ Yes, not as a couple

☐ Yes, as a couple

Continue

Read before answering

To be considered separated, you have to want to live **separate and apart**. This means that you decide that you want to end your relationship and you're acting in a way that shows this. Only one **spouse** or **partner** has to want this for you to be separated.

Which answer to select:

Select **No** if you've stopped living in the same home as John.

Select **Yes, not as a couple** if you're living in the same home but have stopped acting as a couple. For example, this means that you don't go out or eat together, and have stopped having sex. It also means people know that you have separated and are no longer a couple.

Select **Yes, as a couple** if you're living together and acting as a couple. For example, you could be going out together, eating together, or continuing to have sex. This means that you're not separated.

Read before answering

Learn More

Parenting

Information about children

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MY PROGRESS: Date when you and John... ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Date when you and John separated

Enter the exact date if you know it.

If you're not sure, enter the date thats closest to when you think you **separated**, and check the box below.

(mm/dd/yyyy)

☐ This is my best estimate

Continue

How to figure out when you separated

Learn More

7 Parenting

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: Date when you and John...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Date when you and John separated

Enter the exact date i

If you're not sure, ente

separated

, and check

(mm/dd/yyyy)

☐ This is my best es

Continue

How to figure out when you separated

Your date of separation

It's very important to give the court the correct date that you separated. For some couples this is difficult to figure out, especially if they separated and then tried living together again.

If you're not sure if or when you separated, it's important to [talk to a lawyer](#).

This law says that your date of separation is the date when you started living **separate and apart**. This means that:

- you or your spouse or partner decide you want to end your relationship, **and**
- you're acting in a way that shows this.

For example, this might be the date when you started to:

- live in separate homes
- sleep in different rooms in the same home
- separate your money and finances
- do things on your own, such as having meals, going on vacations, or celebrating holidays
- telling people, including your children, that you are separated

How to figure out when you separated

Learn More

Parenting

Information about children

Information about your relationship

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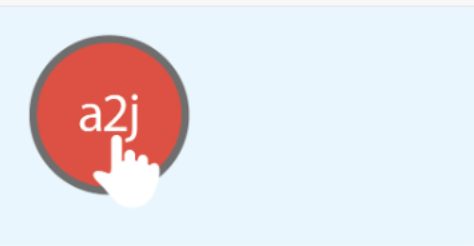


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Information about your children

Quick exit



Information about children

The next set of questions asks about children you and John are financially responsible for.

You'll need to enter:

- the child's name
- their date of birth
- who they live with

Which children should I include?

Include all:

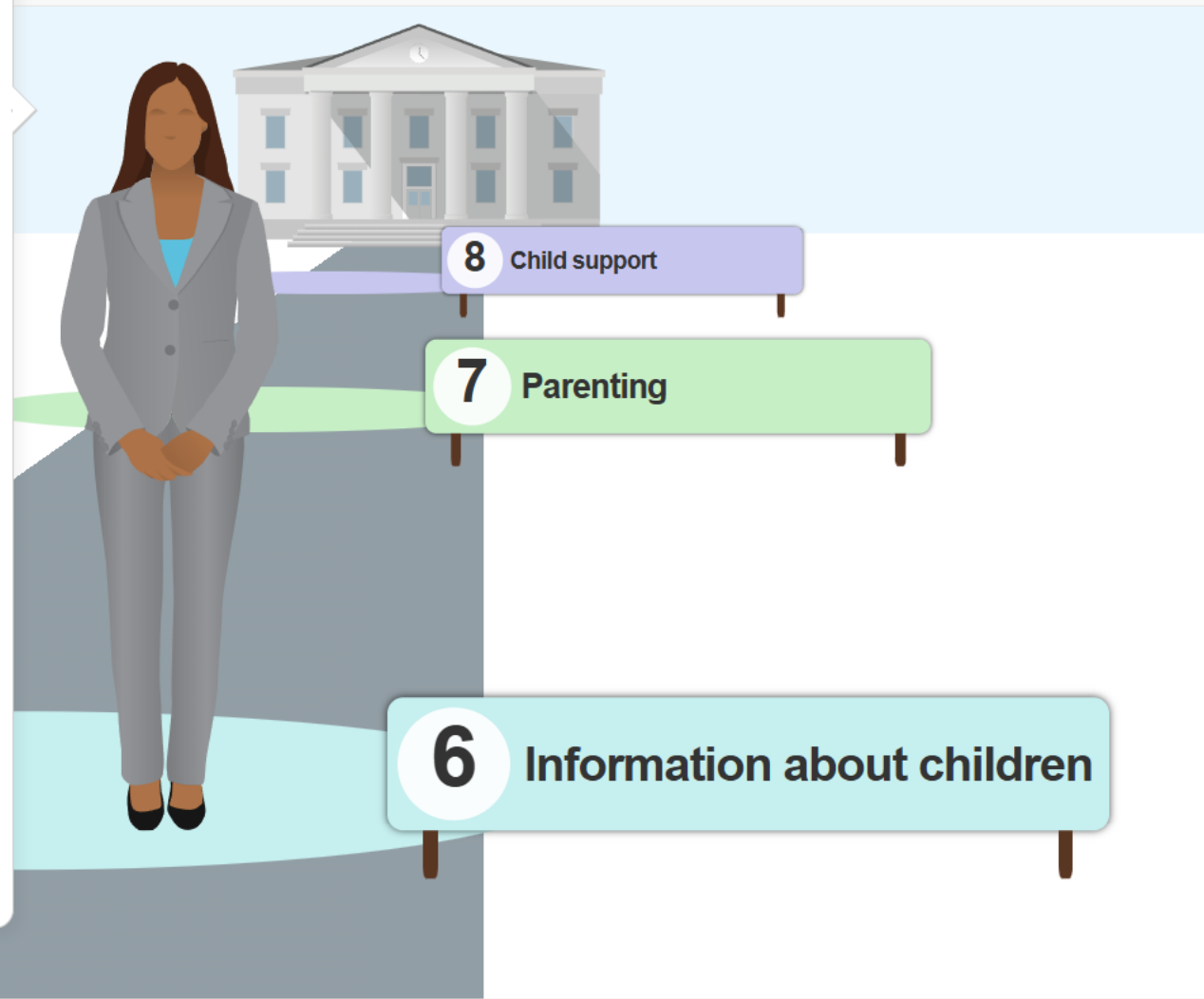
- children and stepchildren you and John have together
- children who lived with you when you **separated**
- children you or John have **decision-making responsibility** for
- children over 18 who still rely on you or John for financial support

Do not include children over 18 who no longer rely on you for financial help.

How many children can I list?

You can list **up to 6 children** in this pathway.

Continue



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Next >

MY PROGRESS: Enter the name and date of birth of...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Enter the name and date of birth of the first child:

First name: (Required)

Timothy

Middle names:

Neal

Last name: (Required)

Doe

Date of birth: (Required)

06/15/2020

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Continue

What name to enter

Learn More

8 Child support

7 Parenting

6 Information about children

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: Enter the name and date of birth of...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Enter the name and date of birth of the second child:

First name: (Required)

Jennifer

Middle names:

Marie

Last name: (Required)

Doe

Date of birth: (Required)

08/03/2022

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Continue

What name to enter

Learn More

8 Child support

7 Parenting

6 Information about children

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Child support

Quick exit

[← Back](#)

Next >

MY PROGRESS:

Child support This section is...

 **SAVE AND EXIT**

Child support

This section is about **child support**.

For the **Form 8: Application (General)**, you need information that:

- clearly states what order you want the court to make about child support
- shows why the order is in the **best interests of the child**

The questions that follow gather that information.

Continue

10 Other claims

9 Spousal support

8 Child support

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Quick exit

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MY PROGRESS: How the court decides the amount...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

How the court decides the amount of child support

Child support tables

Usually, the court orders an amount of **child support** based on the **child support guidelines**. This amount is called the **table amount**. It's meant to cover expenses like clothes, food, and shelter.

If you're married, you're covered by the government of Canada's **Child Support Guidelines**. And the federal government's **Child Support Tables** set out the basic monthly amounts of child support.

Special or extraordinary expenses

Along with the table amount, people often ask for extra child support to cover **special or extraordinary expenses**.

Setting an amount of child support other than the table amount

The court can order an amount other than the table amount only in certain situations:

- when a child is 18 or older
- when the parent paying support has a very high **income**
- when parents **share parenting time** and a child lives at least 40% of their time with each parent
- when there's **undue hardship**

Continue

10 Other claims

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MY PROGRESS: Who will pay child support? ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Who will pay **child support**?

☐ I will

☒ John will

Continue

Who pays child support?

Learn More

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9 Spousal support

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Quick exit

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: Select each child you want included...

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Select each child you want included in the order for **child support**:

☒ Timothy

☒ Jennifer

Continue

How to answer this

You're being asked which children you want included in the **order** for **child support**.

Child support is money that one parent pays to help cover the costs of raising a child. This includes expenses like:

- food
- clothing
- housing
- school supplies
- other basic needs

Select all the children who should be included in this support order. You'll be asked more questions about the order on the next screens.

If you're not sure which children to include, think about whether the child:

- is dependent on you or John
- is not already covered by a different child support order

A child is usually dependent on you until they turn 18.

A child might still be considered dependent if they are 18 or older and:

How to answer this

Learn More

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: Province where John lives: ▾

SAVE AND EXIT

a2j

Province where John lives:

Ontario ▾

☐ John lives or works outside of Canada

Continue

Why this is important

Learn More

10 Other claims

9 Spousal support

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Amount John earns in a year:

☒ I don't know John's income

Continue



10 Other claims

9 Spousal support

8 Child support



How much **child support** are you asking for?

- ☒ I'm asking for the **table amount** alone
- ☐ I'm asking for the table amount and **special or extraordinary expenses**
- ☐ I'm asking for something other than the table amount

Continue

How to answer this

[Learn More](#)

10 Other claims

9 Spousal support

8 Child support



Date you want **child support** payments to start:

03/01/2026

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Continue

How to answer this

[Learn More](#)

10 Other claims

9 Spousal support

8 Child support

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Next >

MY PROGRESS: Select the children John has paid...

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a2j

Select the children John has paid child support for:

☒ Timothy

☒ Jennifer

☐ None of the children

Continue

How to answer this

Learn More

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Other claims

Claims about support

Child support

- Your income
- The income of your child's other parent
- Special or extraordinary expenses
- Request for orders about health or life insurance
- Request for financial disclosure

Spousal support

- Contractual basis for support
- Compensatory basis for support
- Non-compensatory basis for support
- Your income
- Your spouse or partner's income
- Previous support payments
- Work history
- Information about financial abuse
- Distribution of childcare or home keeping duties

Claims about property and other family law issues

Property division

- Equalization payment
- Exclusive possession of the matrimonial home
- Guardianship over child's property
- Sale of family property
- Freezing assets
- Prejudgment interest

Other family law claims

- Restraining order
- Declaration of parentage
- Costs
- Annulment of marriage
- Prejudgment interests
- Claims related to family arbitration



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Starting a family law matter

Form 8A

Simple of joint divorce

Simple or joint divorce



Fill out Form 8A
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to ask the court for:

- a divorce only without other orders
- a divorce jointly with your spouse, which can include other orders if you both agree

Who is this pathway for?

You can use it if ...	What do you need?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• you're married• you or your spouse have lived in Ontario for the last year• you've been separated for at least one year• you and your spouse have a court order about child support or reasonable arrangements have been made for the support of the children• you want to apply for a divorce on your own (simple divorce) or together with your spouse (joint divorce)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a certified copy of your marriage certificate• copies of agreements, court orders, Notice of Calculation, and Notices of Recalculation• your date of marriage and dates that you lived together• birth dates, names and previous divorce information for you and your spouse• information about any children you and your spouse have



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Starting a family law matter

Court fee waiver

Requesting a court fee waiver

Request a court fee waiver



**Fill out a fee waiver
request form**

using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to request a fee waiver for your civil,
small claims, or family law case.



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True or False?

The Guided Pathways are only for the person starting the family court case.

Responding

Responding to a family law matter



Responding to a family law matter

Answer a family law application



Fill out Form 10
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to respond to a Form 8 or Form 8A: Application. You can also make your own claims for a divorce, decision-making responsibility, parenting time, support, and property division. Decision-making responsibility and parenting time used to be called custody and access.

Reply to an Answer



Fill out Form 10A
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use if you started a family law court case and want to respond to a Form 10: Answer.



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Responding to a family law matter

Form 10: Answer

Responding to an Application

Answer a family law application



Fill out Form 10
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to respond to a Form 8 or Form 8A: Application. You can also make your own claims for a divorce, decision-making responsibility, parenting time, support, and property division. Decision-making responsibility and parenting time used to be called custody and access.

Who is this pathway for?

You can use it if...	What do you need?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• you want to respond to a Form 8 or Form 8A that was issued at a Superior Court of Justice• you want to ask for your own orders for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a divorce, if your spouse has not already asked for one (as long as you or your spouse have lived in Ontario for at least one year)• child support• decision-making responsibility or parenting time• spousal support• property division• other family law orders like a restraining order	<p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Form 8 or Form 8A you received• copies of agreements, court orders, Notice of Calculation, and Notices of Recalculation• birth dates, names and previous divorce information for you and your spouse, partner, or child's other parent• information about any children you and your spouse, partner, or child's other parent have• income information for you and your spouse, partner, or child's other parents



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Responding to a family law matter

Form 10A: Reply

Replying to an Answer

Reply to an Answer



Fill out Form 10A
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use if you started a family law court case and want to respond to a Form 10: Answer.

Who is this pathway for?

You can use it if...	What do you need?
You want to respond to a Form 10	<p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Form 10 you received• the Form 8A you filed with the court or the Continuing Record for your family law case• information about any children you and your spouse, partner, or child's other parent have



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True or False?

The Guided Pathways can help users prepare for court appearances, not just starting proceedings.

Getting there

Steps throughout the court process



Getting there

Case conference

➤ Fill out Form 17A
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to complete the forms you need for your case conference.

Settlement conference

➤ Fill out Form 17C
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to complete the forms you need for your settlement conference.

Complete net family property forms

➤ Fill out Form 13B or 13C
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to complete forms to calculate net family property in a family law case.

Make or respond to a motion

➤ Fill out motion forms
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use if you want to start a motion or respond to a motion as part of your family law case that is in progress.

Make an emergency motion

➤ Fill out emergency motion forms
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to ask the court for an emergency motion because you or your children are in danger. For example, your partner is threatening to hurt you or your children, or to take your children away from you. The pathway can also help you make a safety plan.

Trial management conference

➤ Fill out Form 17E or TSEF
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to complete the forms you need for your trial management conference.

Final steps

Wrapping up and moving forward

01

Planning

ADR options, financial planning

02

Starting

Application, simple divorce

03

Responding

Answer, Reply

04

Getting there

Conferences, motions, trial management

05

Orders, enforcement, and changes

Motions to change, orders, consent

Orders, enforcement and changes

Request a motion to change

➤ Fill out Form 15
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to ask to change a final court order or support agreement.

Get a court order on consent

➤ Fill out Form 14B
and Form 25
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to ask the court to make a temporary or final order that you and the other party agree on.

Respond to a motion to change

➤ Fill out Form 15B
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use if you've been served with a Form 15: Motion to Change and you disagree with some or all of the changes requested.

Draft an order

➤ Fill out Form 25
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to fill out draft Form 25: Order (General) to ask the court to make a temporary or final order.

Request a motion to change on consent

➤ Fill out Form 15C or 15D
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to ask to change a final court order or support agreement, and you and the other party agree to the change.

File your support agreement for enforcement

➤ Fill out Form 26B
using CLEO's Guided Pathways

Use to file your separation agreement, marriage contract, cohabitation agreement, or paternity agreement with the court to enforce the support amounts outlined in it.

How we know they work

Evaluation consistently shows positive results

-  Usage
-  User feedback
-  Frontline worker feedback
-  Quality assurance checks
-  Research validation

Used at scale. Tested for quality.

Reach

October 1, 2025 –
September 30, 2026

100,000

**documents
generated**

90,000

visits

Depth

9

areas of law

70

doc types

100

pathways

31,000

**question and
information screens**

Usability evaluation

Canadian Journal of Law and Society / Revue Canadienne Droit et Société (2024),
39: 3, 512–535; doi:10.1017/cls.2024.17



RESEARCH ARTICLE / ARTICLE DE RECHERCHE

Court Form Accessibility: Adopting, Designing and Evaluating Online Guided Pathways*

Amy Salyzyn¹ , Jacquelyn Burkell², Esti Azizi³ and David Westcott⁴

¹University of Ottawa, Faculty of Common Law, Ottawa, Ontario; ²Western University, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, London, Ontario; ³University of Ottawa, Faculty of Common Law (student), Ottawa, Ontario and ⁴University of Ottawa, Faculty of Common Law (student), Ottawa, Ontario

Corresponding author: Amy Salyzyn. Email: amy.salyzyn@uottawa.ca

 The Law
Foundation
of Ontario
Advancing access to justice



- Published usability and complexity research found Guided Pathways can *substantially reduce* the complexity of completing court forms.

Salyzyn A, Burkell J, Azizi E, Westcott D. Court Form Accessibility: Adopting, Designing and Evaluating Online Guided Pathways. *Canadian Journal of Law and Society / Revue Canadienne Droit et Société*. 2024;39(3):512-535. doi:10.1017/cls.2024.17

“the way each question is broken down in simple terms without all the legalese”
— Guided Pathways user, quoted in the published study. Cambridge University Press

Efficacy evaluation

- Randomized controlled trial with independent legal assessment



Group 1:

standard form and other available online resources



ONTARIO

[SEAL] _____ (name of court) Court File Number _____

at _____ Court office address

Form 8: Application (General)

Applicant(s)

Full legal name: _____

Address: _____

Phone & fax: _____

Email: _____

Applicant(s)' Lawyer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone & fax: _____

Email: _____

Respondent(s)

Full legal name: _____

Address: _____

Phone & fax: _____

Email: _____

Respondent(s)' Lawyer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone & fax: _____

Email: _____

TO THE RESPONDENT(S):

A COURT CASE HAS BEEN STARTED AGAINST YOU IN THIS COURT. THE DETAILS ARE SET OUT ON THE ATTACHED PAGES.

THE FIRST COURT DATE IS (date) _____ AT _____ ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m.
or as soon as possible after that time, at (address) _____

NOTE: If this is a divorce case, no date will be set unless an Answer is filed. If you have also been served with a notice of motion, more information is on that notice or your lawyer should come to court for the motion.

☐ **THIS CASE IS ON THE FAST TRACK OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.** A case management judge will be assigned by the time this case first comes before a judge.

☐ **THIS CASE IS ON THE STANDARD TRACK OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.** No court date has been set for this case but, if you have been served with a notice of motion, it has a court date and your or your lawyer should come to court for the motion. A case management judge will not be assigned until one of the parties asks the clerk of the court to schedule a case conference or until a motion is scheduled, whichever comes first.

☐ **AFTER 365 DAYS, THE CASE HAS NOT BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TRIAL.** The clerk of the court will send out a warning that the case will be dismissed within 60 days unless the parties file proof that the case has been settled or one of the parties wants a case or a settlement conference.

☐ **IF YOU WANT TO OPPOSE ANY CLAIM IN THIS CASE,** give your lawyer must prepare an Answer (Form 10 – a blank copy may be obtained from the court office or your lawyer) and file it with the court office or with an Affidavit of Service (Form 16B) WITHIN 28 DAYS AFTER BEING SERVED IN CANADA OR WITHIN 35 DAYS IF YOU SERVED THIS APPLICATION OUTSIDE OF CANADA. CONTACT THE COURT OFFICE TO FIGURE OUT THE DATE. IF AN ANSWER IS NOT FILED, YOU WILL LOSE (GO AHEAD) WITHOUT YOU AND THE COURT MAY MAKE AN ORDER AND ENFORCE IT AGAINST YOU.

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Group 2:

Guided Pathway form preparation



Enter your name and date of birth:

First name: (Required) _____

Middle names: _____

Last name: (Required) _____

Date of birth: (Required) _____
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Observations from 22 interventions

Comparison group

3 of 11 applications assessed as suitable for filing

Guided Pathways group

11 of 11 applications assessed as suitable for filing

- 1 Pathway-generated forms also showed stronger completeness and procedural compliance
- 2 Most non-pathway forms were critically flawed
- 3 All pathway-completed forms were fileable
- 4 Step-by-step guidance helps users to identify and provide the information they need to complete their forms



Ministère de la Justice
Canada

Department of Justice
Canada



McGill



Guided Pathways substantially improved filing readiness and completeness.

Randomized Controlled Trial: Evaluating outputs



Group 1: “control” – PDF form



Group 2: “treatment” – Guided Pathway



<https://www.cleo.on.ca/en/rct>



CLEO

Community Legal Education Ontario
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario

Questions?

CLEO Guided Pathways support
support@cleo.on.ca