

Family Dispute Resolution

Choosing the right process and service provider for you and your family.

Family Dispute Resolution refers to five processes that help families resolve some or all of their family law issues out-of-court. This guide helps you choose the right process and the right service provider for you and your family.

Step 1:

Pick a Family Dispute Resolution Process

Step 2:

Learn about and Agree on a Service Provider

Step 3:

Participate in the Process

Step 1: Pick a Family Dispute Resolution Process

A. Compare the processes to find the best fit for you.

Collaborative Law: Each person has a specially trained lawyer who, working with other professionals, provides support and advocacy for their client to reach a fair and informed settlement through agreement to an out-of-court negotiation process.

Family Arbitration: Parties agree to have a family arbitrator hear evidence and make a binding decision. It can be thought of as a customized out-of-court trial where parties have more control over timelines and procedure.

Family Mediation: A neutral mediator helps parties communicate, negotiate, clarify issues and work toward solutions.

Parenting Coordination: Child-centered process facilitated by a specially trained Parenting Coordinator to assist parents who are having issues with an existing parenting agreement or order.

Child Support Service: An office of the Government of Saskatchewan that can calculate an initial child support amount and recalculate existing payments based on the income of the parents.

B. Which process can help with your issues?

	Property Division	Parenting Arrangement	Child Support	Spousal Support
				
Collaborative Law	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Arbitration	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Mediation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parenting Coordination		✓		
Child Support Service			✓	

Step 2: Learn about and Agree on a Service Provider

After picking a Family Dispute Resolution process, it's time to select a service provider.

A. Learn about Service Providers



**Search the
Service Provider
Registry**



Learn more
Visit service
provider websites,
and read reviews



Contact them
Use the common
questions below
to guide you

B. Agree on a Service Provider

How to agree with the other party on the service provider to use?

There is no one-size-fits-all approach. The approach may vary depending on the circumstances. Here is one example:

1. Pick the Family Dispute Resolution process you want to use.
2. Pick your preferred three service providers.
3. Contact the other party, tell them Family Dispute Resolution is a required step, give them your three service provider options, and ask which one they prefer.
4. Give the other party a timeline for when to respond to you.

For more information, contact the Early Family Resolution Office:

1-306-787-0439 or 1-833-787-0439
earlyfamilyresolution@gov.sk.ca
www.saskatchewan.ca/earlyfamilyresolution

Common Questions to Ask Service Providers

Qualifications and Experience

- Confirm that they are recognized by the Minister of Justice to provide Family Dispute Resolution service
- What are your qualifications, years of experience, and familiarity with the issues we want to resolve?

Cost and Billing

- What is the cost of your service?
- What is included in this cost?
- Are both parties billed together or separately?
- What do I have to pay in advance?

Safety

- What is your safety screening process?

Process and what to expect

- How does your process work?
- Does each person meet with you separately?
- What information and documents can we

Step 3: Participate in the Process

Once you have participated, your service provider will give you a *Certificate of Participation*. If you do not resolve all your family disputes in Family Dispute Resolution, you can use the *Certificate of Participation* to proceed through court.