

COORDINATED CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (custody and access cases)

ROADMAP

Criteria for eligibility

- Disputed custody and access cases (new case starting up or still early in the process) AND in which any of the following are issues:
 - mental health challenges
 - substance abuse (addictions)
 - criminal involvement
 - woman abuse
 - more than one service provider involved (CAS, Police)
 - children are involved in the conflict(In other words, custody and access cases not likely to get resolved through mediation)
- Parties can be represented by counsel or self-represented
- Parties must sign consent form with legal advice

Benefits of the Program

- Early intervention by the Service Advisory Group (SAG), comprising of two mental health / social work professionals , to provide the following:
 - gather historical information from the Intake material filled out by the parties, review any assessment information previously completed
 - Meet with each parent individually
 - Contact service providers that have been, or are currently involved, with the family, if indicated
 - Identify the key issues that appear to be contributing to ongoing tension and conflict between the parents
 - Identify potential services that could address the key issues of conflict
 - Identify potential services that could be of benefit to the children in decreasing the impact of the current conflict;
 - Develop suggestions for services based on the above assessments and submit a brief summary report of service suggestions to the parties, their counsel and the court
- A Case Management Judge/Master to be assigned to the family throughout the process (each judge/master will team up with another judge/master to cover potential unavailability or absence and insure quickest judiciary response possible)
- An early trial date, when indicated
- Quicker access to services recommended by the SAG
- There is no cost to the parties to enter the program (i.e. the involvement of the SAG is now FUNDED by a Law Foundation grant)

Better – Quicker – Cheaper

How to get in

- Simply write a letter to Justice Mackinnon, explaining the basic facts of the case and why you consider that it should be accepted into the program
OR
- Complete the Intake Forms that are available at FLIC, the MIP sessions, the FCDC appearance and in the Masters' case conference court room, and return them to Justice Mackinnon

What are the steps?

- Once your case is accepted into the program, you will receive a letter from Justice Mackinnon:
 - confirming the acceptance of your case in the program
 - confirming the name of the judge or master assigned to your case
 - providing you with a Consent Form and an Intake Form to be filled out and signed by your client and returned to Justice Mackinnon forthwith
- Justice Mackinnon will forward the documentation to the SAG
- The SAG should be in contact with the lawyers/parties within two weeks to request documents and schedule separate meetings with the parties
- Within (generally) 2-4 weeks after having interviewed the parties, the SAG will forward to the parties, lawyers and the court a copy of their written suggestions
- The parties are at liberty to schedule a meeting / conference with their Case Management Judge at any time, but one should definitely be set after receipt of the SAG report to discuss the suggestions and incorporate them (or some of them) in a court order, and to incorporate a timetable into the order
- Depending on the facts and needs of the case, any other steps in the case may be taken, as appropriate, to move the case to settlement or the earliest possible trial date.