
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Attorney General

NEW CIVIL AND FAMILY RULES TAKE EFFECT JULY 1

VICTORIA – New Supreme Court rules that simplify and lower the cost of civil and family court procedures for British Columbians are on track to start next month.

The Province committed to implementing new civil and family rules by July 1. The new rules will benefit average citizens using the court system and make it more affordable for them.

The new rules and related resources can be viewed at: <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/new-rules/>.

Under the new rules, there will be no court fees for the first three days of court hearings. Court fees for filing or responding to a legal claim will be eliminated for parties that engage in mediation prior to commencing a civil action.

The new rules are part of government's broader civil and family justice reform agenda. They promote early resolution and co-operation, while ensuring the interests of families and children are paramount.

The Ministry of Attorney General is creating online versions of the new civil and family rules forms. The forms will be available in late June. Sample versions can be viewed at: <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/courts/other/supreme/smart-forms/index.htm>, so the public and legal profession can learn how the forms will work.

The new rules are the result of work that began six years ago when the B.C. Justice Review Task Force created civil and family justice reform working groups to research and make recommendations for procedural reforms. The working groups included members of the private bar, judiciary, the chief justice of B.C. Supreme Court, the deputy attorney general, policy analysts and others.

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