

# What is Family Law?

Family law deals with legal matters that affect families.



# Legal Problems for Family Lawyers

- A family lawyer deals with:
  - Divorces/ Separations
  - Child Custody & Visitation
  - Child Support and Spousal Support
  - Child Protection and Welfare
  - Cases of domestic abuse and violence

Let's look at these issues more closely...

*If you are dealing with any of these problems, please call us! We may be able to help!*

# Divorce and Separation

- When people get divorced, it means they are no longer married or in a relationship.
- The Court doesn't care why you're getting a divorce – that is your business.
- When you want to get divorced, you need your Marriage Certificate

# Divorce and Separation

- If you and your common-law/husband/wife both want to break up, you can work together to try and decide who you want things to happen – this is called mediation.

# Child Custody & Visitation

- When people who have kids get divorced, things like visits and where the kids stay need to be worked out.
- The court wants to make sure that when those decisions are made, they are the best decisions for the kids – this is called the “best interests of the child”.

# Child Custody & Visitation

- The best thing for a child is to be with parents that are able to care and look after a child safely.

# Child Support and Spousal Support

- When people have kids, even if you don't live with them, you are responsible for helping support them
- The law says that you have to help pay for taking care of your kids - in Canada this is called Child Support.

# Child Support and Spousal Support

- How much you have to pay depends on several things like where you live and how much you make.
- Not paying child support can get you in trouble – **it can even get you sent to jail.**



# Alcohol & Children

## ALATEEN

- If you are affected by alcoholism ***you are not alone***. ALATEEN is a fellowship of young people who have been affected by alcoholism.
- If you want more information on ALATEEN please call (867) 983 - 4092

## Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)

- If you are pregnant, you **should not** drink alcohol. You can harm your baby. Drinking can hurt your baby.
- There is no cure for FAS and the effects are permanent
- If you want more information on FAS, please talk to your doctor

# Domestic Abuse and Violence

- There are many forms of abuse and violence
  - Physical (i.e. hitting, punching etc.)
  - Sexual (i.e. unwanted touching etc.)
  - Financial (i.e. keeping money from you etc.)
  - Psychological (i.e. name calling, picking on you etc.)

Domestic Abuse and Violence  
Abuse and violence CAN get you in  
trouble with the RCMP. You can be  
charged and sent to jail.

*No one has the right to hurt you; Not your  
husband or wife or a loved one.*

*If you are experiencing any of these  
issues, there are options to get  
help. **You are not alone.***

# Adoptions

- Adoption is when parents give their kid(s) to someone else so that the kid(s) can be raised and cared for.
- There are different types of adoption
- Sometimes, an adoption means that the parents cannot see their children.
- Other times it means the child lives with a family member

# Adoptions

## **Adoption**

- In an adoption, the parent(s) are giving up their children forever (requires a lot of paperwork)
- After a child is adopted, the birth parents have no right to the child or say in how it's raised

## **Custom Adoption**

- A custom adoption means that the child is raised by another a family member (does not require the same paperwork as an adoption)
- In a custom adoption, a parent can take their child back once they are able to take care of the child