

FAMILY JUSTICE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FAMJ-1000 – Family Justice Services in BC

This online course is for mediators and those working in the helping professions. This course is designed for those who wish to gain information and an overview on the various components of the family justice system. Participants will learn how the courts define legal terms such as custody, access, guardianship, and support. The course explains how the family justice system works and the need to consider issues such as relationship violence. It is a preparatory course for those seeking a career as a family justice counsellor. Please note that the course will not deal with the division of property or making a formal agreement. The course will require approximately 21 hours of study time to be completed within a six week period. (Formerly FAM190; CORR606)

FAMJ-1001 – Introduction to Family Justice Services in Canada

This online course will provide learners with the knowledge, skills and competence to identify and assess the needs of families who are experiencing separation or divorce. They will gain the foundational knowledge of how the family court system works in the various provinces in Canada; the federal and provincial legislations pertaining to separation and divorce, and options related to custody and access issues. Participants will become familiar with financial support issues such as child and spousal support, and support systems available across Canada. The course does not deal with property division. This course is equivalent to Introduction to Family Justice Services in BC (FAMJ-1000) or Introduction to Family Justice Services in Alberta (CORR609). The course will require approximately 21 hours of study time to be completed within a six week period. (Formerly FAM300)

FAMJ-1002 – Family Violence: Impact on Separation and Divorce

This online course is intended to serve as a general overview of the topic of relationship violence. It examines the dynamics of relationship abuse, particularly during separation and divorce. Participants will learn theories of abuse, the impact of abuse on family members, screening protocols, interviewing the clients, court remedies, and how to arrange a parenting plan. This course is a preparatory course for all those seeking a career as a family justice counsellor and is crucial for those who practice family mediation. The course requires approximately 21 hours of actual study time to be completed within a six week period. (Formerly FAM191; CORR605)

FAMJ-1005 – Effects of Separation and Divorce on Adults

This course will focus on the effects of separation and divorce on adults. Participants will learn about the divorce process and family dynamics of separation and divorce including the legal, financial, social and psychological effects of family breakdown on family members. Also covered in the course are special issues related to families such as parental responsibility, gender bias, parental mobility, and the impact of new relationships. Constructive intervention programs will assist participants to guide their

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clients. This course is a companion to Effects of Separation and Divorce on Children – FAMJ-1006. The course will require approximately 21 hours of actual study time to be completed within a six week period. (Formerly FAM181; FAM103)

FAMJ-1006 – Effects of Separation and Divorce on Children

The purpose of this online course is to examine the research literature on the effects of separation and divorce on children. The course will look at how factors such as parental conflict affect children's adjustment. Appropriate living arrangements and visitation schedules for children will be explored. Participants will be guided through the actions that need to be taken in cases where abuse is present. Participants will learn how, as a counsellor and/or mediator, they can work more effectively with parents as they make a parenting plan and meet challenges they may experience with their children. This course is a companion to Effects of Separation and Divorce on Adults – FAMJ-1005. The course will require approximately 21 hours of actual study time to be completed within a six week period. (Formerly FAM182; FAM104)

FAMJ-1008 – Mediated Agreements and Related Court Orders

This online course is intended for family mediators who are working with separating couples and will cover the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) including the purpose, structure and contents of an agreement. Participants will learn how MOUs relate to other existing court documents. In addition, it will discuss the Agreement to Mediate, and how agreements are formalized and changed. This course is an essential component of working as a family mediator in separation and divorce cases and is designed to meet Family Mediation Canada Standards for certification. Please note that the course will not deal with the division of property or making a formal agreement. The course will require approximately seven hours of actual study time to be completed within a two week time period. (Formerly FAM184; FAM115)

FAMJ-1009 – Child Support Guidelines

This online course is designed to provide individuals with the knowledge and ability to assist clients with child support issues resulting from separation and divorce. Participants will become familiar with the family mediator's function of helping clients determine the proper amount of child support as per current legislation, with changing child support orders when circumstances change and with assisting clients when one parent lives outside the jurisdiction of the court. The course will require approximately 21 hours of actual study time to be completed within a six week period. (Formerly FAM185; FAM112)

FAMJ-1011 – Substance Use Issues in Family Justice

The purpose of this online course is to explore the nature of substance use in our society and to look at the complexities of substance use as it affects families. The course is designed to provoke thinking around the central themes regarding treatment such as harm reduction, to provide resources for clients,

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and to achieve a greater understanding of symptoms and effects of substances and alcohol. Participants will look at the link between substance abuse and alcohol. This course will assist family mediators and counsellors who work with families. The course will require approximately seven hours of actual study time to be completed within a two week time period. (Formerly FAM187; FAM108)

FAMJ-1012 – Multicultural Issues in Family Justice

This course will provide an opportunity to explore the realm of personal and cultural sensitivity and how it applies to the working environment of family justice counsellors/mediators in B.C. Participants will be introduced to factors they need to consider when addressing issues of race, class and/or gender. Through research, case studies and group discussion, participants will learn the basic skills needed to be culturally competent in their work with clients. The course will require approximately seven hours of actual study time to be completed within a two week time period. (Formerly FAM188; FAM109)

FAMJ-1021 – Writing Children's Needs Assessments (formerly Custody and Access Report Writing)

This course will provide a general overview of writing children's needs assessments, including "Views of the Child" reports and "Full" reports. There is a focus on section 211 - Orders respecting reports, from the Family Law Act. Investigative, observational and interviewing techniques will be discussed as they relate to assisting the learner in making a recommendation in the "best interest of the children." Participants will learn how to develop a systematic framework for the process of writing both "Views of the Child" and "Full" reports, from the time the report is ordered by the court to the end result of the process. Participants will also become familiar with guidelines for this type of evaluation that are established to regulate the field and to ensure accuracy and fairness in the assessment process. The course will require approximately 35 hours of actual study time to be completed within a ten week time period. (Formerly FAM201)

FAMJ-1023 – Shuttle Mediation

Experienced mediators and those new to dispute resolution work will find this course helpful in working with families who are experiencing separation and divorce. The course examines ways by which the mediator can assist parties through a shuttle mediation process of dispute resolution. The content covers the factors that need to be considered, and some strategies for helping mediators avoid some potential pitfalls. Roles and expectations will be examined as well as the use of new technologies that can assist in helping parties to come to resolution. The diverse facets of shuttle mediation will be addressed and the content will provide guidelines for mediators. The material provides an opportunity for mediators to analyze, evaluate, and critique the use of shuttle mediation in their own practices. The course does not propose that shuttle mediation be used in all cases, but rather only in specific circumstances, and it supports the use of joint sessions when possible. The course will require approximately 28 hours of study time to be completed within an eight week period. (Formerly FAM500)