



ALBERTA COURT OF JUSTICE
Edmonton Family & Youth Division
Practice Note 3.1: Family Law Protocols

Effective: May 1, 2025

VARIATION APPLICATIONS

1. Every application to vary a parenting, contact or support order must attach the previous final order which the applicant seeks to vary.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

2. All parties and witnesses involved in an interim hearing or trial must attend in person unless their virtual attendance is authorized in advance by the judge hearing the matter. The application for virtual attendance should not be made to a different judge in family docket court.

NAMING FAMILY LAW ORDERS

3. In the case of an order for interim guardianship, parenting, contact or support where there has been no previous final order, the first interim order and any interim variations of that order shall be called an Interim Guardianship Order, Interim Parenting Order, Interim Contact Order, Interim Child Support Order or Interim Spousal Support Order, as the case may be.
4. In the case of an order for interim guardianship, parenting, contact or support where a final order has been granted previously, the interim order shall be called an Interim Variation of Guardianship Order, Interim Variation of Parenting Order, Interim Variation of Contact Order, Interim Variation of Child Support Order or Interim Variation of Spousal Support Order, as the case may be.
5. In the case of a final order for guardianship, parenting, contact or support, the order shall be called a Final Guardianship Order, Final Parenting Order, Final Contact Order, Final Child Support Order or Final Spousal Support Order, as the case may be.

April 14, 2025

6. A final order varying a previous final parenting, contact or support order shall be called a Final Variation of Parenting Order, Final Variation of Contact Order, Final Variation of Child Support Order or Final Variation of Spousal Support Order, as the case may be.
7. Other orders granted in a family law proceeding shall not be designated as interim or final. These include, but are not limited to, orders for the appointment of counsel for the child, orders authorizing travel, financial disclosure orders and orders authorizing counselling.
8. If the presiding judge is satisfied that all parties involved in a proceeding have consented to an order, it shall be identified as a “Consent Order” in the title of the order.
9. The addition of the words “Without Prejudice” in the title of an order is at the discretion of the presiding judge.

FAMILY LAW ORDERS GENERALLY

10. Orders respecting guardianship, parenting, contact, child support and spousal support shall be filed as separate interim or final orders.
11. An interim order that varies a final order shall state that it supersedes all previous orders on an interim basis.
12. All interim orders shall consolidate and incorporate all subsisting terms of any previous orders.
13. The definition of a child in family law orders must refer to the definition of a child in the *Family Law Act* and not the *Divorce Act*.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2025



Aran Veylan
Assistant Chief Justice
Alberta Court of Justice
Edmonton Family & Youth Division

April 14, 2025