

**Family Justice Services Division – BC Ministry of Attorney General**  
**Family Justice Counsellor Position**  
**General Information**

Family Justice Services Division (FJSD) delivers programs and services that promote the timely and just resolution of family disputes within a comprehensive family justice system. Through community-based Family Justice Centres and Justice Access Centres, FJSD provides various in person and virtual programs and services, including initial needs determination, dispute resolution, Section 211 *Family Law Act* reports and Parenting After Separation online courses.

The family justice counsellor (FJC) position in FJSD is comprised of two distinct roles: dispute resolution mediator and report writer.

In the **dispute resolution mediator role**, an FJC provides information, brief services, brief counselling, referrals, mediation and short-term counselling to families who are experiencing separation or divorce. These services are provided to encourages out-of-court processes for resolving family disputes. Prior to mediation, an FJC is responsible for screening all new clients for family violence. An FJC also provides referrals to appropriate community services and legal resources, assisting with preparing court documents, and with drafting formal agreements. Travel is a requirement of the mediator role (e.g. itinerant service delivery as applicable, training, meetings).

In the **report writer role**, an FJC is a member of a provincial team that prepares reports that capture the views of any children upon order of the court. These reports are provided to help the court determine parenting plans that consider children’s view post separation/divorce. In this role, you will be investigating and recording the views of the child, and at times assessing the needs of the child and the parent’s capacity to meet those needs through interviews and observations with family members and children, and by contacting collateral references. The focus of these reports is the best interests of the children. Overnight travel to various locations throughout the province is a requirement of this position. This may include multiple consecutive overnight stays.

Family justice counsellor career opportunities can be searched through the BC Government Jobs Posting website at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/job-seekers/current-job-postings>

Minimum Hiring Qualifications for FJC Positions:

- A recognized undergraduate degree.  
*Note: Applicants who obtained their degree in a “foreign country” must have that degree evaluated through the International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES). Definition of “foreign degree” is any degree outside of Canada.*
- Completion of 80 hours of conflict resolution courses, with the focus on mediation skills development. Recommended courses: [CRES-1100](#), [CRES-1170](#), [CRES-1181](#), and [CRES-1105](#) offered by the [Centre for Conflict Resolution](#) at the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC). [CRES-1410](#) is preferred.

CRES-1100 Foundations of Collaborative Conflict Resolution CRES-1170 Negotiation Fundamentals: Collaborative Problem Solving CRES-1181 Mediating Fundamentals: Facilitating Conflict Conversations CRES-1105 Navigating Intense Emotions in Conflict CRES-1410 Advanced Mediation
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*Note: If the applicants conflict resolution courses are not from the JIBC, a prior learning assessment may be required to determine if an applicant meets this qualification.*

- A minimum of one year of recent work or volunteer experience in a directly related human service field (e.g., counselling, community service agencies, dispute resolution, court services, legal services, etc.).

*Note: Minimum qualification requirements may vary for hard to recruit locations.*

General information related to the FJC position is also available at: <http://www.jibc.ca/programs-courses/careers/family-justice-counsellor>.

General information about programs and services offered by the Family Justice Services Division is available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/about-bcs-justice-system/justice-services/family-justice-services-division?keyword=family&keyword=justice&keyword=services&keyword=division>.

### Training Program Upon Hire

Once hired, you will be required to complete a 6-month training program managed by the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC). This includes a practicum, coursework (see below) and Family Mediation Canada certification. Participation in this training program is not available until you have been offered and accepted a position.

The coursework involved in this training program includes:

- Family Justice Services in BC
- Family Violence: Impact on Separation and Divorce
- Effects of Separation and Divorce on Adults
- Effects of Separation and Divorce on Children
- Substance Use Issues in Family Justice
- Multicultural Issues in Family Justice
- Child Support Guidelines

These courses are also available to the public and can be taken pre-hire. Many FJCs in training find it helpful to take these course pre-hire.

For more information about the JIBC Family Justice courses or to register online for a specific course see: <https://www.jibc.ca/program/family-justice>

For more information about the JIBC Centre for Conflict Resolution courses or to register online for a specific course see: <https://www.jibc.ca/areas-of-study/conflict-resolution>

If you have any questions or issues with registration, please access <https://www.jibc.ca/registration> or

Phone: 604-528-5590  
Toll-free: 1-877-528-5591  
Email: [register@jibc.ca](mailto:register@jibc.ca)