

# COURT-RELATED SERVICES AND AGENCIES

You will likely become involved with at least one court-related service during your family law case. Even if you are trying to work things out with your ex-partner without starting a court case, you may find it helpful to turn to some of the services associated with family court for information or support.

Take the time to learn a bit about the service before you decide whether or not it is for you.

TIP  
SHEET

## WORKING WITH COURT-RELATED SERVICES AND AGENCIES

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### TIP #1: KNOW WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH

Ask some questions before you commit to using any service to which you are referred:

- ◆ What does this service do?
- ◆ Do you think you need it (e.g., what can it do for you and your family)?
- ◆ Does the service have the power to interfere in your life more than you want it to?
- ◆ Can you be required to provide information you might not want to?
- ◆ Does the service have an obligation to report what you tell it to anyone else (e.g., the police, the court, CAS)?
- ◆ Is there a formal complaints process you can use if you are not happy with the service you receive?

### TIP #2: BE PREPARED

The better prepared you are, the better your interactions with court-related services will go. Once you have found out everything you can about the service you are working with, you should:

- ◆ Make sure your court file (your copies of everything in your official court file) is up to date, complete and well organized. You want to be able to find any documents you need quickly, without having to shuffle through bags or boxes of miscellaneous materials.



