
About the Family Justice Review Committee

The Family Justice Review Committee is a non-profit community-based organization which offers services regarding issues involving children and their families being affected by divorce, separation or child protection matters. Some services are offered free on a limited basis to those who financially qualify.

In addition to children's video recorded interview service, we offer support services or referrals intended to help families experiencing problems with high conflict and family court related issues. Some of these services/referrals include:

- ❑ **Assistance with the preparation of comprehensive parenting agreements and plans**
- ❑ **Parenting & family court educational materials & sources of helpful information.**
- ❑ **Third party mediation**
- ❑ **Third party witnesses for verification or prevention of false allegations**
- ❑ **Courses relating to divorce and separation.**
- ❑ **Access to support from other members of the community**
- ❑ **Information on matters concerning courts and judiciary system**
- ❑ **Courtroom support**
- ❑ **Library and research materials relating to family law and parenting issues**
- ❑ **Supervisory persons to facilitate compliance to court ordered supervised access visitation**
- ❑ **Supervised parenting and exchanges of children**

If you have other questions then please give us a phone call for additional information.

Obtaining accurate and reliable information from children in a fair and accountable way is a growing problem!

In recent years there has been a growing frustration, and in some cases, outrage, by children and parents, at the manner in which information from children of separation or divorce is collected and processed through the family court system.

Due to severely over-burdened government funded resources, many complain that it takes weeks, if not months, to have a government funded lawyer or qualified social worker interview a child to obtain information from the child as part of a child custody assessment. Some government agencies have even been criticized by the courts for taking too long to get information and for not following the court's instructions.

Complaints abound from parents who claim that social workers and other professionals were negligent in gathering information and that they did not report accurately to the court. Some children have reported that court appointed assessors did not even ask them if they were being abused by parents during a child custody evaluation!

Many children have reported that they do not trust the workers they spoke to nor did they feel that the persons who interviewed them listened or reported their concerns accurately. Some children have even reported being intimidated and coerced by those who were interviewing them and actually told to lie to authorities in order to favor one side in a dispute.

Reducing and eliminating many of these long standing complaints is now possible through third party video recorded interviews of children. A video recorded interview will quickly and efficiently obtain testimony from the child in an accurate and accountable manner. Separated parents and/or agencies involved with high conflict families can greatly benefit from this service.

A child-centered, affordable, third party service designed to obtain accurate and reliable disclosure from children involved in separation/divorce/child protection family court matters.

Video Interview Services for children (for children)



For help & information call

Family Justice Review Committee
(416) 410-4115

Email: info@familyconflictservices.com

Does a child you know need help?

Do you know of a child who is.....

- ❑ Being abused or maltreated by another parent or by persons at the other parent's household?
- ❑ Being adversely affected by negative influences such as drugs, alcohol, smoking or domestic violence in the home?
- ❑ Feeling frustrated with the current custody and access arrangements and wants a change, possibly even thinking of running away from one parent's home?
- ❑ Being denied his/her rights to a meaningful relationship with one of his/her parents?
- ❑ Feeling afraid about their physical or emotional safety?
- ❑ Not being listened to or properly represented by their Children's lawyer?
- ❑ Feeling that he/she has not been listened to or believed by social workers, therapists, police and/or government appointed lawyers or agencies?
- ❑ Being denied his/her rights to reasonable telephone contact with a parent?
- ❑ Angry and frustrated at the system because of delays, inaction and failure to address the child's best interests?
- ❑ Wanting to speak out about his/her past or present experiences and feelings as a child of separation or divorce.
- ❑ Wanting to speak to someone who will listen to them and accurately report what they have to say?
- ❑ Being abused yet ignored by child protection authorities?

A video recorded interview of a child can help to accurately gather important and crucial information

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that video recorded evidence from a child witness is the most reliable and least intrusive method of gathering testimony from children. A video recorded interview of a child can help parents/guardians, solicitors or other health care and legal experts get a reliable and permanent record of information disclosed by a child in the following areas:

- Physical, emotional, sexual abuse and/or maltreatment/neglect.
- Coaching, threatening or intimidation of the child.
- Attempted use of false allegations by one parent against another.
- Child's exposure to undesirable influences such as drugs, alcohol and smoking and domestic violence.
- Presence of harmful Hostile-Aggressive Parenting (HAP), parental alienation and/or estrangement.
- Child's wishes and preferences relating to residency and custody.
- Failure of authorities such as police, child welfare protection agencies or foster care workers to properly deal with or protect a child from physical & emotional abuse.
- Access denial to a non-custodial parent.
- Disputes over accuracy of children's disclosures in previous assessment interviews, police and/or child welfare protection agency investigations or reports.

Other information and benefits

Some of the benefits of our video interview service include:

- **Fast and efficient turn-around time.** Normally, a video recorded interview and a written report can be ready for court in less than two weeks. For certain emergency situations, especially where a child is at imminent risk of harm, this time can be reduced to as little as 24 to 48 hours
- Copies of video recorded interviews can be provided in digital format to parties or their solicitors.
- Written reports and/or affidavits, summarizing the interview are available at the request of any party for use in court or for submission to other professionals (such as assessor) or other agencies.
- Interviews may be conducted at the child's home or at any other suitable mutually agreeable child friendly interview location.
- Child friendly process using interviewers who are trained to deal with children in a friendly manner.
- Video recorded interviews offer the most reliable, transparent and accountable process for obtaining information from children.
- Affordably priced – some services are available on a pro-bono basis to those who may qualify for financial assistance.
- Interviews are conducted in accordance to guidelines and procedures which are intended to ensure maximum fairness, accuracy and accountability at all times.