



caught in the middle

Children's Involvement in the Court Process as it
Relates to Intimate Partner Violence



Acknowledgments

This research was funded by the *Prairieaction* Foundation and supported through in-kind contributions from the University of Manitoba. Thank you to our research assistant, Kaitlyn Dyer, for drafting the environmental scan and the research advisory committee for reviewing the document and providing feedback. Thank you to Patricia Karacsony for the design of the final environmental scan report.



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Executive Summary

This province-wide environmental scan consists of programs and services available to children and families involved in criminal and family court proceedings in cases of IPV. A comprehensive list of these organizations and the specialized services they provide was then created with a focus on social services, criminal justice services, and legal services. Both rural and urban areas of Manitoba were highlighted and any relevant programs in both regions were included. In addition, policy and legislation specific to the subject and potentially useful to families experiencing IPV were listed.

In total, 76 agencies and/or programs were included; 52 of these were social services related to shelters, counselling and community supports, men's services, and access programs; 8 were organizations and services involved in supporting victims; and 16 were services specializing in legal aid, child support matters, mediation and reconciliation. The organizations and programs included in the scan offer a variety of services that are intended to be inclusive to all families, regardless of background or situation. Many of the programs are also available free of charge or at a very low cost, making them as accessible as possible.

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Canada-Wide

Support Lines

Police Emergency	911
Local RCMP Detachment.....	http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cont/index-eng.html
First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line – 24/7 Hours.....	1-855-242-3310
Indian Residential School Crisis Line – 24/7 Hours.....	1-866-925-4419

Support Lines

- Toll-free Province Wide Domestic Abuse Crisis Line (24 Hour).....1-877-977-0007
- Manitoba Suicide Prevention & Support Line.....1-877-435-7170
- Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority - Mental Health and Intake
and Crisis Line at Corporate Office
(Mental Health Support).....24 Hour Crisis Line: 204-482-5419
Toll Free: 1-866-427-8628
- Crisis Chat Line (Monday to Friday 10am – 9pm).....www.supportline.ca
- Manitoba Farm, Rural & Northern Support Services.....204-571-4180
Toll free: 1-866-367-3276



Shelters/Housing

Mary's House (Samaritan House Ministries)

820 Pacific Avenue (Samaritan House Resource Centre)
Brandon, MB R7A 6N5
Phone: 204-727-1268
Email: wcmh@samaritanhouse.net

Mary's House has four second stage units for women and their children who have been victims of domestic violence. These units give women who have left abusive relationships time to live independently and create next steps beyond emergency shelter. Often families stay for up to nine months and continue to participate in Mary's House programs, including group counselling, and family violence programs. Children's counselling is available for both children who reside onsite and those who do not.

Westman Women's Shelter (YWCA Brandon)

148 11th Street
Brandon MB, R7A 4J4
Phone: 204-727-3644
Email: ywca2@wcgwave.ca
Website: www.ywcabrandon.com

The Brandon YWCA Westman Women's Shelter is an emergency shelter offering a short-term safe and supportive environment for abused women and their children. Counselling services are available to men through The Counselling Centre with a male counselor. All services are provided free of charge and are safe, private, and confidential. Information is available for both legal and medical issues regarding family violence if individuals are unsure about the next steps to take.

Parkland Crisis Centre

P.O. Box 651
Dauphin, MB R7N 2V4
Phone: 204-622-4626
Crisis Line: 1-877-977-0007
Website: <http://parklandcrisiscentre.ca/index.php>

This center values the basic human right to freedom from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. They are committed to providing alternatives to violent living and therefore offer emergency shelter for women and children who may need it. Their 24/7 crisis line is available for counselling, information, and referrals to other services; they are able to help women identify their needs and develop a plan with them to meet those needs. Their children and youth program is specifically designed to support the children of abused women and developmentally appropriate counselling is provided based on the needs of the children.

Manitoba: Social Services

Women's Safe Haven

60 Hapnot Street
Flin Flon, MB R8A 1L6
Phone: 204-681-3105
Website: www.womensresource.ca

The Women's Safe Haven provides emergency housing for women and children. They also have counselling and support services and are able to refer anyone they cannot immediately house to a different shelter or service. Children will be accommodated and trained staff are available to care for them if women have appointments or engagements and are required to leave the shelter.

First Nation Healing Centre

P.O. Box 365
Koostatak (Fisher River), MB R0C 1S0
Phone: 204-645-2750
Toll Free: 1-800-692-6270
Website: www.firstnationhealingcentre.ca

First Nation Healing Centre provides housing for women and children who are victims of violence while promoting traditional healing. Their non-residential services include walk-in counselling, a 24-hour crisis line, a clothing depot, and art therapy.

Nisichawyasihk Cree Nation (NCN) Women's Shelter

22 Otetiskiwin Drive
Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0
Shelter Landline: 204-484-2634
24 Hour Line: 204-679-1996
Website: <https://www.ncncree.com/community-facilities-and-programs/ncn-womens-shelter/>

The NCN Women's Shelter is a safe space available for women and their children 24 hours a day. To help individuals move forward, there is counselling, family violence programs, Elder support, and childcare. Four of their eight suites are intended to accommodate larger families and four are for smaller families. Workers at the shelter can work with each family's needs to come up with a safe plan for the women and children involved.

Jean Folster Place Women's Shelter

P.O. Box 250
Norway House, MB R0B 1B0
Phone: 204-359-3444
Crisis Line: 877-885-5889

The Jean Folster Place is a women's shelter located in Norway House Cree Nation. It offers

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emergency shelter for women and children seeking a safe place to go. Support groups and walk-in counselling are available, as well as referrals to medical, legal, and social service agencies.

Portage Family Abuse Prevention Centre

P.O. Box 1541

Portage La Prairie, MB R1N 3P1

Phone: 204-239-5234

Crisis Line: 204-239-5234

Website: <https://www.abuseprevention.ca>

This agency is a safe place where women and children can receive free, safe, and supportive emergency housing. They are involved in many non-residential programs in the community that both prevent violence in families and relationships and spread awareness around the issue. Parenting after violence support groups are available, as well as groups for children exposed to intimate partner violence. Their staff are also qualified to submit applications to a Magistrate for Protection Orders in extreme situations. These Orders forbid the respondent from contacting the applicant in question and help keep abused women and children safe while they consider their next steps.

Mamawehetowin Crisis Centre

P.O. Box 133

Pukatawagan, MB R0B 1G0

Phone: 204-553-2198

Crisis Line: 866-432-1041

This shelter provides women and children suffering from domestic abuse with temporary secure shelter where they can determine their next steps. Walk-in counselling, crisis counselling, and crisis intervention are all offered. Referrals to medical, legal, and social service agencies are available and also open to all other outlying communities that are not directly located in Mathias Colomb Cree Nation.

Nova House

P.O. Box 337

Selkirk, MB R1A 2B3

Phone: 204-482-7882

Crisis Line: 204-482-1200

Website: <https://www.novahouse.ca/>



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Nova House is an emergency and transitional shelter for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. They also offer a 24 hour crisis line, assistance accessing community resources, and individual and group counselling for children. Their children's program for kids who have witnessed violence in the home is a safe environment with age appropriate information about domestic violence. Activities that promote the expression of feelings and the re-building of self-esteem are also offered.

Wechihin Waskkahikan Women's Shelter

P.O. Box 126
Shamattawa, MB R0B 1K0
Phone: 1-204-565-2548

This shelter is located in Shamattawa First Nation and is an emergency shelter for abused women and their children. Support groups and crisis counselling are available in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner. They provide referrals to medical, legal, and social service agencies where necessary.

Agape House

P.O. Box 3130
Steinbach, MB R5G 1P5
Phone: 204-326-6062
Crisis Line: 204-346-0028

Agape House is a non-profit organization that serves the Southeast region of Manitoba by providing emergency shelter for women and children, as well as both residential and non-residential counselling and outreach services. A children's program with play therapy and child counselling is also offered and is available for all individuals, regardless of whether they are residing in the shelter.

Aurora House

P.O. Box 3779
The Pas, MB R9A 1S4
Phone: 204-623-7427
Crisis Line: 204-623-5497
Website: <https://www.aurorahouse-sharethecare.com>

Aurora House is a branch of The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis and is considered an emergency shelter that helps address domestic violence through support and education. They offer a 24-hour crisis line and refer any calls that are beyond their domestic violence mandate to other shelters or services.

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My Sister's House

P.O. Box 3779

The Pas, MB R9A 1S4

Phone: 204-623-7427

Crisis Line: 204-623-5497

Website: <https://www.aurorahouse-sharethecare.com>

My Sister's House is a small apartment complex run by Aurora House that is intended for women who have left abusive relationships and are looking to rebuild their lives and families.

Thompson Crisis Centre

P.O. Box 1226

Thompson, MB R8N 1P1

Phone: 204-677-9668

24 Hour Crisis Line: 204-778-7273 or 1-877-977-0007

Email: tcc9668@mymts.net

Website: <https://www.thompsoncrisiscentre.com>

Thompson Crisis Centre offers emergency shelter, children's programming, and healthy living programming. All services are based on an assessment of the situation. Their children's program provides counseling to children and parents, both individually and in groups. Childcare is also provided for clients when they are in counseling or at appointments.

YWCA Thompson

39 Nickel Road

Thompson, MB R8N 0Y5

Phone: 204-778-6341

Email: accmgr_ywca@mts.net

Website: <http://www.ywcathompson.com>

This agency offers short-term transitional residence for women and children at affordable rates; children under 12 years of age also stay for free with their parents. The YWCA

Woman's Centre is a safe place for women and teenage girls where children are welcome with an adult. They provide information about community resources and have partnered with the Thompson Crisis Centre to offer counselling by appointment.



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Genesis House

P.O. Box 389
Winkler, MB R6W 4A6
Phone: 204-325-9957
Crisis Line: 204-325-9800
<https://www.geneshouseshelter.ca>

This shelter is designed to empower women and children and to provide resources for women in abusive situations. They are located in Winkler, Manitoba, but cover a large region of the Southwestern part of the province. They offer many support groups for women where childcare is provided and also have a specialized child/teen counselor who is able to have sessions with children when necessary. They also actively refer clients to lawyers and services that assist with custody and financial issues.

Alpha House Project

P.O. Box 37015
Winnipeg, MB R2M 5R3
Phone: 204-982-2011
Email: alphahse@mymts.net

Alpha House is a year-long program for women who are looking to rebuild their lives and create a safe space for themselves and their families. Units are safely protected and fully furnished and individual, group, and family counselling are all provided. Women are supported in developing healthy self-esteem and building skills to live independently. The agency works with children to regain a sense of trust and build important relationships.

Bravestone Centre

St Norbert P.O. Box 202
Winnipeg, MB R3V 1L6
Phone: 204-275-2600
Email: info@bravestonecentre.ca

Bravestone Centre is a non-profit charitable organization that works with women and children who have moved beyond abusive relationships and are involved in second-stage housing. Suites are equipped with basic furniture to facilitate an easy move-in. Individual and family counselling is always available. Additionally, support workers are able to provide referrals and connections to other community resources.

IKWE Widdjiitiwin

P.O. Box 1056
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2X4
Phone: 204-987-2780

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Toll-free Crisis Line: 800-362-3344

Website: www.ikwe.ca

This agency provides a 30 day shelter program for women and children fleeing an abusive relationship. They provide assistance accessing housing, medical, and legal services. Their children's program exists to empower children who have been affected by domestic violence and to encourage children to express their feelings in a safe environment. Finally, workers at the shelter discuss safety plans with the clients and can offer home visits once they are safely residing in the community.

Willow Place

P.O. Box 397

Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6

Phone: 204-615-0313

Crisis Line: 204-615-0311

Website: <https://willowplaceshelter.ca/>

Willow Place is a family violence agency that supports healthy relationships by providing emergency shelter in Winnipeg for women and their children. Their 24-hour crisis line is available for anyone seeking assistance or counselling and they also offer individual and group counselling in person. Protection Order Designates assist with the preparation of Protection Orders and workers can also make referrals to Manitoba Housing, Legal Aid, and other community supports.



Community/Social Supports

The Counselling Centre

335 9th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 4A8
Phone: 204-726-8706
Email: info@counsellingcentre.ca
Website: <https://counsellingcentre.ca>

The Counselling Centre offers individual, couple, family, and group counselling, offered through referral or self-referral. Counselling may cover a wide variety of issues including stress management, conflict resolution, and crisis counselling. Prices are based on a sliding fee scale to ensure affordability. Counselling is typically short-term, but varies on an individual basis. They offer couples' counselling designed specifically for separation and divorce or reconciliation, as well as family counselling for parent/child conflict and blended family issues.

Elsbeth Reid Family Resource Centre

255 – 9th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 6X1
Phone: 204-726-6280
Email: frc@cfswestern.mb.ca

This facility is focused on supporting families and children in the community and offers courses, workshops, support groups, and parent-child activities. They assist parents with transportation and childcare while parents are attending programming. Various support groups are also available, as well as special events and community programs.

All People's Counselling

144 12th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 4L7
Phone: 204-720-0552
Email: allpeoples@mymts.net

Supportive counselling services available to people in Brandon and surrounding communities, provided by Michelle Hood RPN/BScPN. Service is available at a fee for service rate of \$100/hour. Coverage is also available through First Nations Inuit Health for individuals with status. Michelle worked at the Child and Adolescent Treatment Center in Brandon for 16 years before starting her work in private counselling practice. She offers services to children and adults dealing with life stress, and mental illness: depression, anxiety, attachment disorder, suicidal ideations. She offers supportive counselling to individuals who have experienced trauma and grief. She also offers family and relationship counselling. Please call/text or email to set up an appointment.

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The Women's Resource Centre

729 Princess Avenue
Brandon, MB R7A 0P4
Phone: 204-726-8632
Toll-free: 1-866-255-4432

This non-profit organization provides a range of services for women and their families in southwestern Manitoba. Their counselling services are free for women who have experienced abuse at the hands of an intimate partner or family member. Advocates are also available for women who may need assistance navigating the resources available in Brandon/Westman. Art therapy and other drop-in services are offered. Free counselling is also available for children who have experienced family violence. This is designed to help children through trauma in a safe way, teach healthy ways of coping, and assist in developing trust.

Tupper Street Family Resource Centre (TSFRC)

234 Princess Avenue
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0R1
Phone: 204-239-3986
Email: frontdesk.tsfrc@gmail.com

TSFRC provides community-based services to families in Portage la Prairie and the surrounding areas. All services are accessible to everyone as they are offered at no cost. Referrals to other agencies and resources are provided, as well as a clothing depot and access to computers and the Internet. They offer programs regarding healthy parenting, nutrition, toddler care, parent drop-in, and positive discipline.

Life Story Counselling

206 – 250 Manitoba Avenue
Selkirk, MB R1A 0Y5
Phone: 204-482-6544
Email: info@lifestorycounselling.com

Individual counselling, family counselling, couple's counselling, and coaching are all offered. Experienced counsellors who have worked with children in the welfare system, as well as children who have been through trauma and violence are available and use a variety of



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methods and techniques to address client issues.

Crocus Counselling Centre

2 – 581 Main Street
Steinbach, MB R5G 0L3
Phone: 204-326-9353
Email: crocus.counselling@gmail.com

Crocus Counselling Centre works with sexual, emotional, and physical abuse issues, as well as anger management problems, family conflict, and couple's problems.

Snow Lake Family Resource Centre

131 Balsam Street
Snow Lake, MB R0B 1M0
Phone: 204-358-7141
Email: snowlakefrc@gmail.com

This resource centre is dedicated to providing services for women and families that will empower them to make informed choices, especially regarding cycles of violence they may have experienced. They have mental health information and referrals available, counseling for men, women, and children, and crisis support.

Alloway Therapy Services

468 Academy Road
Winnipeg, MB R3N 0C7
Phone: 204-284-0466
Email: lynne@allowaytherapy.com

Alloway is a multifaceted therapeutic team that offers services to individual children, as well as their caregivers and families. In addition to play therapy and EMD, they offer a program specifically for families experiencing conflict. Families in Transition provides services for families going through change due to divorce or separation. Treatment for children of high conflict divorce and education for parents is offered. Individual parent and individual children's therapy are available, as well as parent/child therapy, which can help facilitate parent-child communication through separation. Fees are determined by the nature of the services being utilized, but can be flexible.

Aurora Family Therapy Centre

University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9
Phone: 204-786-9251

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Aurora Family Therapy offers a variety of therapy services, including counselling for individuals, families, couples, newcomers, and groups. Families go to Aurora for issues regarding communication, parenting, blended families, divorce, grief, trauma, anger, and violence.

Family Enhancement Program

Winnipeg Child & Family Services

WRHA Access Downtown
640 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0L8
Phone: 204-940-2167

Southeast Child & Family Services

1410 Mountain Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2X 3C4
Phone: 204-594-0494
Toll-free: 1-855-821-8027

Metis Child, Family, and Community Services

2000 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3J 0K1
Phone: 204-927-6960
Toll-free: 1-800-821-8793

Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Services

225 Waller Road
Opaskwayak, MB R0B 2J0
Phone: 204-627-7157

Sagkeeng Child & Family Services Inc.

P.O. Box 700
Pine Falls, MB R0E 1M0
Phone: 204-367-2215
Toll-free: 1-877-367-4020

Nikan Awasisak Agency Inc.

P.O. Box 388
Cross Lake, MB R0B 0J0
Phone: 204-676-4411



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The Family Enhancement Unit aims to increase services to First Nation children and families, on and off-reserve. Their approach focusses on detecting problems before they impair the health and development of families and children. Services provided include respite, parenting skills, anger management and domestic violence workshops, intensive family supports, Elder support, Ceremony/Teaching support, and family case conferencing.

Family Dynamics

Portage Place Mall
401-393 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6
Phone: 204-947-1401
Email: info@familydynamics.ca
Website: <http://www.familydynamics.ca>

Counselling, in-home family support, parent coach program, art therapy, and other family resources/programs are offered through Family Dynamics. Fees are based on family income, family size, and ability to pay. No one is refused service for inability to pay.

Klinik Community Health

870 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0P1
Phone: 204-784-4090
Evolve Family Violence Phone: 204-784-4059
Email: info@klinik.mb.ca

Klinik's Evolve Family Violence Program is intended for any individual or family who has been affected by domestic abuse. They offer both men's and women's programs. The counselling programs for women help them explore safety and protection needs, recover from the effects of intimate partner abuse, and outline the next steps for their family.

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

445 King Street (Main Site)
Winnipeg, MB R2W 2C5
Phone: 204-925-0300
Toll Free: 1-888-962-6294
Email: info@mamawi.com
Website: <http://www.mamawi.com>

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre firmly believes in the importance of family and have developed many initiatives toward maintaining family dynamics and facilitating reunification where possible. Some of their services include: emergency services, home-based crisis intervention, parenting groups, and personal growth and development groups. Their open groups are available to anyone in the community, while their closed group requires registration and acceptance into the program. Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre also offers the Spirit of

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Peace program which addresses family violence in separate programs for men, women, and youth. The program provides counselling, advocacy, referrals, as well as cultural and spiritual healing practices.

Native Women's Transition Centre

105 Aikins Street
Winnipeg, MB R2W 4E6
Phone: 204-989-8240
Email: rswnt1@nwtc.cc



The Native Women's Transition Centre provides comprehensive supports to Indigenous women and their children who are struggling to move on from violent or unhealthy situations. The agency encourages traditional Indigenous values and cultures and uses Indigenous healing methods to help women and children achieve stability. They offer crisis services, parenting programs, healing circles, and family violence prevention programs.

Elizabeth Fry Society

544 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2W 2M9
Phone: 204-589-7335
Toll-free: 1-800-582-5655

The Elizabeth Fry Society provides advocacy, access to resources, and support to women who are in conflict with the law. The agency also assists women with other issues including addiction, poverty, mental health, and parenting. Programs offered include Women for Change (anger management), transitional housing, and the volunteer court support program.

Mount Carmel Clinic

886 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R2W 5L4
Phone: 204-589-9409
Email: info@mountcarmel.ca

The Mount Carmel Clinic is home to the Manito Ikwe Kagiikwe (Mothering Project) which provides support to any woman who is pregnant or early parenting (child under 3) and has a substance use problem. Services are provided free of charge and include community outreach, one-on-one support, referrals and advocacy, access to prenatal care, support groups, and traditional ceremony and teachings.

North End Women's Centre

394 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2W 2M2
Phone: 204-589-7347
Email: info@newcentre.ca

The North End Women's Centre is a non-profit organization that serves women and their families. Their resources include information, referrals, outreach, employment programs, and support groups. Their children's program is intended for children aged 0-12 and gives them a chance to learn new skills and improve their behaviour, as well as learn new coping and communication skills, depending on past trauma and experiences. Group and individual sessions are available. Counselling for women 18 or older is available on an individual basis, in groups, and in both open and closed settings.

North Point Douglas Women's Centre

221 Austin Street N
Winnipeg, MB R2W 3M8
Phone: 204-947-0321
Email: info@npdwc.org

The North Point Douglas Women's Centre works to create opportunities for women to engage with their community and address all forms of violence with prevention and remediation strategies. Their drop-in services include computer access, laundry facilities, group activities with other women and children, and access to clothing/houseware items. The centre also offers free counselling a few times a week where women are invited to either walk-in or make an appointment. Their Red Road to Healing program is designed for women who have experienced family violence. They also have many programs and activities for children and families.

The Refuge (Riverwood Church Community)

325 Talbot Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2L 0P9
Phone: 204-668-3181 ext. 220
Email: refuge@riverwood.cc

The Refuge is a collection of programs created by the Riverwood Church that is designed to respond to the needs of women living in the area. Both open and closed support groups are available for a variety of topics. Specific groups and specialized counselling are both offered for women who have experienced trauma and violence. Programs and groups are held in various locations and they also have a drop-in program that operates on a first-come, first-served basis.

Manitoba: Social Services

Renaissance Centre Inc.

844 Autumnwood Drive
Winnipeg, MB R2J 2G9
Phone: 204-256-6750
Email: renais@mymts.net

This organization offers bilingual counseling and programs intended to enhance the well-being of the people in the community. Long-term counselling and psychotherapy are available in both French and English for children, teens, and adults. Issues such as divorce, stress management, family mediation, trauma, and abuse are covered. Stress reduction classes, yoga, and meditation are also available.

Status of Women

409 – 401 York Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0P8
Phone: 204-945-6281
Toll-free: 1-800-263-0234
Email: maw@gov.mb.ca
FVPP Email: fvpp@gov.mb.ca

The Manitoba Status of Women is a branch of Sustainable Development through the provincial government that aims to promote gender equality and the equal participation of all women in society. They work to identify needs and concerns of Manitoba women and raise awareness of issues affecting women in our province. Their goal is to bring the concerns of women to the provincial government and ensure they are being dealt with and discussed. Their Family Violence Prevention Program plans community development opportunities that help prevent and eliminate family and intimate partner violence. The program offers funding to agencies that provide services to women and other individuals who have experienced abuse.

Wahbung Abinoonjiag Inc.

225 Dufferin Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2W 5N7
Phone: 204-925-4610
Email: coordinator@wahbung.org

Wahbung's focus is on prevention, healing, awareness, and capacity building. They offer programs and services



Manitoba: Social Services

for women and their families who have been affected by domestic violence. Counselling is available for women and children using a humanistic approach. Individual, group, cultural, children's, and women's counselling are all offered. They also have domestic violence prevention workshops and advocacy and aftercare for women who are fleeing violent relationships.

Wolseley Family Place

Lower Level, 691 Wolseley Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 1C3
Phone: 204-788-8052
Email: admin@wfpwpg.ca

Wolseley Family Place has a variety of services and programs that involve education, support, and community links. They believe in the importance of community capacity building, population health, equality, and changing the atmosphere so that every family is able to have similar choices and opportunities. They offer many programs for parents and children focused on nutrition, building relationships, and parenting. Individual consultations on specific topics are also available for parents.

A Woman's Place (NorWest Co-Op Community Health)

200 – 323 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R1N 0X4
Phone: 204-940-6624
785 Keewatin Street
Winnipeg, MB R2X 3B0
Phone: 204-938-5912

A Woman's Place Domestic Violence Support and Legal Services provides supportive counselling and legal services for women who are in the process of leaving an abusive relationship or have exited one. All services are confidential and include legal advice, representation, and information, presentations on family law, support groups, and children's counselling specifically for kids who have witnessed domestic violence. Family violence services are offered at the Keewatin Street location. This agency is also a Protection Order Designate.



Men's Services

Men's Resource Centre

115 Pulford Street
Winnipeg, MB R3L 1X8
Phone: 204-415-6797
Toll-free: 1-855-672-6727

The Men's Resource Centre is a program of the Laurel Centre that provides therapy services to men who have experienced trauma and stressors in their lives including childhood sexual abuse and intimate partner violence. All services are offered free of charge and include emergency shelter services for men and children as well as individual and group therapy.



Winnipeg Boldness Project

5-585 Jarvis Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2W 3B2
Phone: 204-790-2653

The Winnipeg Boldness Project is an innovative initiative focussed on developing and testing community-drive solutions to create better opportunities for children and families in Winnipeg's North End. Program development is in its early phases but will include the following: Supports for Dads: Increasing Family Togetherness and Baby Basket: Supporting New Parents.

Aboriginal Health & Wellness Centre of Winnipeg (AHCW)

Phone: 204-925-7501
Email: jgarrisk@ahwc.ca

The Mino-Pimatiziwin Program (Men's Healing Program) is offered out of AHCW and is focused on providing services to Indigenous men in Winnipeg who are attempting to make positive lifestyle changes. The program provides

Manitoba: Social Services

a range of services including one-to-one counselling, home/office visits, Elder support/counselling, Sharing and Teaching Circles, sweats, cultural education, and the Better Fathering workshop. The program is responsive to individual crisis situations so participants are able to drop in when necessary.

John Howard Society

538 Ellis Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1Z7
Phone: 204-775-1514
Email: office@johnhoward.mb.ca

The John Howard Society is a reintegration program that offers support and resources for men in the community as well as those inside provincial and federal institutions in Manitoba. A number of classes are offered including Introduction to Healthy Relationships, Triple P Parenting, and End to Aggression.



The John Howard Program also focuses on restorative justice and works to provide opportunities for victims, perpetrators, and the community to partake in an open dialogue about the incident.

Manitoba Metis Federation

3rd floor - 150 Henry Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0J7
Phone: 204-586-8474 ext. 371

The Manitoba Metis Federation offers Neah Kee Papa, a parenting program for men. It is designed to support the well-being of children and to encourage and promote the parenting role of fathers. The course is geared toward giving men the information and resources they need to become more involved in the lives of their children.

Access Support

Brandon Access Exchange Service (BAES)

144 12th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 4L7
Phone: 204-729-8115
Email: bfcaccess@mymts.net

BAES is a parent and child visitation access program run by the Brandon Friendship Centre. This program provides services such as supervised visits and exchanges for non-custodial parents and children in a neutral and child-centered setting. BAES is voluntary unless court ordered and both parents must initiate contact with BAES before the application process starts. BAES also has a partnership with DOCFS and works with children who are in care. Supervised visits are \$10 per hour, per parent & exchanges are \$10.00 per parent, per exchange.

Winnipeg Children's Access Agency (WCAA)

385 River Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3L 0C3
Phone: 204-284-4170
Toll-free: 1-866-886-6153

WCAA offers a range of supervised access programs for children and their family members who have experienced some level of conflict. The programs are child-focused and strive for consistency, safety and respectful communication. Both parents are required to contact the agency to apply for services. Service fees are based on a sliding scale and may cost up to \$30 for supervised visits. This agency allows children who may not otherwise have contact with their parents to visit with them in a safe space.





Non-Emergency Police Assistance

Winnipeg.....	204-986-6222
Brandon.....	204-729-2345
Steinbach.....	204-326-4452
Thompson.....	204-677-6909
Selkirk.....	204-482-1222
Portage la Prairie.....	204-857-4445
Churchill.....	204-675-2551

Manitoba: Criminal Justice Services

Services for Victims

Manitoba Justice Victim Services

Manitoba Justice Victim Services provides support to all crime victims across the province. They have specialized units for child victims and domestic violence victims throughout Manitoba. In addition, the program also provides support to families who receive assistance from the Winnipeg Police Services for domestic violence incidents that do not result in charges. This support includes court and criminal justice system information, liaising with the Crown attorney and other justice system staff, court preparation, court support/accompaniment (when possible), referrals for counselling, and safety and protection planning.

Toll-free Manitoba Line.....	1-866-484-2846
Winnipeg Region (Winnipeg).....	204-945-6851
Interlake/Eastman Region (Selkirk).....	204-785-5213
Central Region (Portage la Prairie).....	204-239-3378
South Central Region (Morris).....	204-746-8249
Westman Region (Brandon).....	204-726-7400
Parkland Region (Dauphin).....	204-622-5080
Norman Region (The Pas).....	204-627-8483
Thompson Region (Thompson).....	204-677-6368

Domestic Violence Support Service (DVVS)

405 Broadway (Manitoba Justice Building)

Winnipeg, MB R3C 3LC

Phone: 204-945-6851 (Winnipeg Region Phone #, see below for other regions)

Toll-free: 1-866-484-2846

DVVS helps victims of domestic violence when criminal charges have been laid, as well as assists those who have gone to police for domestic violence incidents but have not had their case result in charges or arrests. They provide information about the court process and criminal charges so that individuals understand the justice system. They may also speak with Crown attorneys regarding specific concerns victims may have about their cases and can connect both parents and children to appropriate community resources through referral and advocacy. The DVVS also provides safety planning services, emotional support, and short-term counselling.

Central Region Phone.....	204-239-3378
Interlake Region Phone.....	204-785-5213
Parkland Region Phone.....	204-622-5080
Norman Region Phone.....	204-627-8483
Thompson Region Phone.....	204-677-6368
Westman Region Phone.....	204-726-6515

Manitoba: Criminal Justice Services

Child Victim Support Service

1410 – 405 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3LC
Phone: 204-945-0662

Research and Investigations Office

270 Osborne Street N
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1V7
Toll-free: 1-800-263-7146

Manitoba Justice Victim Services has created the Child Victim Support Service to help parents and children understand the court processes and to connect individuals with other supportive services. CVSS will provide court information, emotional support, referrals to other community resources, and assistance with victim impact statements. They can help prepare a child for court, including a visit to the courtroom to ensure the child is comfortable. Testimonial aids to help with the court experience are also an option. Short-term counselling is also offered for both victims and witnesses of crime.

Compensation for Victims of Crime Program

1410 – 405 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3L6
Phone: 204-945-0899
Toll-free: 1-800-262-9344
Email: cvc@gov.mb.ca

This program provides compensation such as money and services to victims or witnesses who have been injured and affected as a result of a crime that occurred in Manitoba. Individuals are eligible for this program if they have been injured or hurt in a crime, if they have personally witnessed a crime, and if they apply within one year of the crime.

Application for compensation is initiated by filling out the correct form from the Compensation for Victims of Crime office or from various Victim Services office in the province. Costs such as medical expenses, counselling fees, lost wages, and rehabilitation expenses can all be covered.

Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY)

Advocacy Office

Unit 100 – 346 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C3
Phone: 204-988-7440

MACY is an independent office of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly that seeks to respect and represent the rights and viewpoints of children and youth in Manitoba who are accessing services



Manitoba: Criminal Justice Services

from a variety of agencies and governmental branches. These may include CFS, mental health and addiction organizations, victim support (including young people impacted by domestic violence or exploitation). They advocate directly with children and their parents and will advise young people of their rights and the services available to them.

Protection Order Designates

A Protection Order Designate (POD) is an individual trained specifically to help people apply for Protection Orders. These orders are granted by a Justice of the Peace and often prevent the respondent from contacting the applicant, coming near the applicant, following the applicant, etc. These orders may also give the applicant the assistance of a police officer to remove belongings from the home. Protection Order Designates will help applicants with the process and are located at the following agencies in various regions:

Brandon:

Brandon Friendship Centre.....204-729-8115
Women's Resource Centre.....204-726-8632

Dauphin:

Parkland Crisis Centre.....204-622-4626

Flin Flon:

Women's Resource Centre.....204-681-3105

Portage la Prairie:

Portage Family Abuse Centre.....204-239-5234

Selkirk:

Nova House.....204-482-7882

Steinbach:

Agape House.....204-346-0028

Swan River:

Swan Valley Crisis Centre.....204-734-9369

The Pas:

Aurora House.....204-623-5497

Thompson:

MAPS.....204-778-6040
Thompson Crisis Centre.....204-677-9668

Manitoba: Criminal Justice Services

Winnipeg:

A Woman’s Place (NorWest Coop Community Health).....	204-938-5912
Klinic.....	204-784-4090
North Point Douglas Women’s Centre.....	204-947-0321
Pluri-elles (Manitoba) Inc.....	204-233-1735 ext. 208
Rainbow Resource Centre.....	204-474-0212
The Refuge (Riverwood Church Community).....	204-668-3181 ext. 220
Salvation Army Correctional & Justice Services.....	204-949-2100
WillowPlace.....	204-615-0311



Snowflake Place

225 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2A6
Phone: 204-944-1405
Email: infosnowflakeplace@winnipeg.ca

Snowflake Place collaborates with Winnipeg Police Service and other partners to address the needs of children who have experienced abuse or have witnessed violence. They are a children’s advocacy centre intended to minimize trauma by providing a child-friendly setting for child victims and witnesses. Forensic interviewers who are trained in conducting interviews with children who have experienced trauma are available to complement the investigation process.

Salvation Army Correctional & Justice Services

2nd Floor 324 Logan Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3A 0L5
Phone: 204-949-2100

The mission of this branch of the Salvation Army is to offer programs and services to offenders, victims, and witnesses who are involved with the criminal justice system. They have many specialized programs available that cater to different individuals. The Peace of Mind program is designed for female victims of domestic violence and their Women’s Outreach program includes a variety of events and services catered to supporting women of all ages and backgrounds.

Child Support & Maintenance

Child Support Recalculation Service

201 – 373 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4S4
Phone: 204-945-2293
Toll-free: 1-800-282-8069 (ext. 2293)
Email: csrs@gov.mb.ca

The Child Support Recalculation Service allows parents to have a child support order recalculated at certain points in time or at regular intervals based on the updated or changing financial information of either parental party. To be eligible, the child support order in question must be based on the actual income of the parent paying the support and both parties must live in Manitoba. At least one of the parents must get a court order authorizing the recalculation.

Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP)

100 – 352 Donald Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2H8
Phone: 204-945-7133 (automated line)
Toll-free: 1-866-479-2717
Email: ManitobaMEPINquiries@gov.mb.ca

The MEP's purpose under the Family Maintenance Act is to administer spousal and child support obligations under the terms of a family's Court Order or Agreement. Under this program, maintenance payments that the Debtor would normally send to the Creditor will be sent to the MEP instead. The payment will be processed and then forwarded to the Creditor. This program is designed to enforce court orders and separation agreements that require payment of maintenance support so that the well-being of children involved is ensured. To register with the MEP, a request can be made by either the Debtor or the Creditor and if payments are not made, MEP will begin collection activity on the support owed.

Family Law Assistance

Collaborative Practice Manitoba (CPM)

collaborativepracticemanitoba.ca
Contact members for more information

Collaborative Practice Manitoba is an online database that consists of lawyers, financial and child specialists, and counsellors who practice in a collaborative manner to assist clients in making the separation or divorce process as smooth as possible. Members are experts in their fields and are guided by a set of ethics, as well as governed by the International

Manitoba: Legal Services

Academy of Collaborative Professionals. Members can be contacted directly through the listing on CPM's website and are all committed to serving clients throughout the positive dispute process. Each member has a personal profile that details their field of work and gives individuals the ability to contact them through the database to set up a personal meeting.

Community Legal Education Association (CLEA)

301 – 441 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B4
Phone: 204-943-2382
Law Phone-In: 204-943-2305
Toll-free: 1-800-262-8800

CLEA exists to provide legal information for Manitobans so that justice is more easily accessible to all individuals and the justice system is more responsive to the needs of all. Their programs and resources help communities and individuals better understand how to resolve legal issues. These programs include a Law Phone-In Service where callers can receive general legal information and referrals over the phone at a set price, as well as a Speakers Bureau of volunteer lawyers who are available to provide legal information to communities upon request. This can be used by groups and agencies looking to educate their communities on the legal system in the province.

Court of Queen's Bench (Family Division)

Winnipeg Court Office
Main Floor – 408 York Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2H 2P9
Phone: 204-945-0344

St. Boniface Office
100 – 614 Desmeurons Street
Winnipeg, MB R2H 2P9
Phone: 204-945-8010

Flin Flon Office
104 – 143 Main Street
Flin Flon, MB R8A 1K2
Phone: 204-687-1670

Morden Office
301 Wardrop Street
Morden, MB R6M 1X6
Phone: 204-822-2882

Selkirk Office
101 – 235 Eaton Avenue
Selkirk, MB R1A 0W7
Phone: 204-785-5122

The Pas Office
300 – 3rd Street E
The Pas, MB R9A 1L2
Phone: 204-627-8420

Thompson Office
59 Elizabeth Drive
Thompson, MB R8N 1X4
Phone: 204-677-6757

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The Family Division of the Court of the Queen's Bench deals with family disputes exclusively and has judges who are specialists in family law matters. Though the Court of the Queen's Bench has offices across the province, the family division is available to handle child protection and support matters only in the regions listed above. Their services include: mandatory parenting programs, mediation, dispute resolution, case management, and timely contested litigation dates for high conflict cases.

Family Justice Resource Centre

100 A – 408 York Avenue (Law Courts Building)

Winnipeg, MB R3C 0P9

Phone: 204-945-2312

Toll-free: 1-844-808-2313

Email: FJRCinquiry@gov.mb.ca

The Family Justice Resource Centre is a service provided by Manitoba Justice that assists those who have a family law matter. Services include: assistance with drafting a child support order, help finding a lawyer, and discussions on how to obtain custody or access to one's children. All information is free and confidential.



Healthy Separation Divorce Network

Online Network

Email: info@healthyseparation.ca

Website: www.healthyseparation.ca

This online support hub was designed to help parents who are going through a marital break-up reduce the amount of conflict involved in the process. Legal resources, professional services, and relevant articles are all offered through their website and email. Parenting Coordinators, Mediators, and Family Counselors are available to help families

Manitoba: Legal Services

make informed decisions and cooperate for the best interests of the children. Trained family lawyers are also part of the network and can help in the legal processes.

Family Law Access Centre (FLAC)

Law Society of Manitoba
200 – 260 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0M6
Phone: 204-926-2048
Email: drossol@lawsociety.mb.ca

This is a pilot project offered by the Law Society of Manitoba to help middle income families who have an income above the Legal Aid guidelines, but still need assistance to afford legal services with respect to family law issues. Any individual seeking assistance must complete an application form, which, if approved, will lead to a contract between FLAC and the individual. Monthly payments will then be paid to FLAC over a set period of time to cover the legal fees; however the rate will be lower than what is typically. Individuals can then choose a lawyer to represent them from a list of volunteer lawyers who are a part of the FLAC program.

Infojustice Manitoba (French Legal Aid)

250 – 614 Desmeurons Street
Winnipeg, MB R2H 2P9
Phone: 204-815-5274
Toll-free: 1-844-321-8232
Email: ajefm-infojustice@ajefm-infojustice.com

Infojustice is a French-based organization offering services pertaining to judicial information, referrals, and consultations. All of their resources can be accessed either in person or on the phone and all contact and details are confidential. They will often refer individuals to Francophone lawyers or to organizations that specialize in the circumstance at hand, as well as explain legal terms and situations either at a face-to-face meeting or on the phone. They have many resources specific to family law, including information about parental arrangements following divorce and child support issues. English-speaking individuals are invited to call or email the organization for more information.

Legal Aid Manitoba

Administration Office
4th Floor – 287 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0R9
Phone: 204-985-8500



Manitoba: Legal Services

Brandon Office
236 – 11th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 4J6
Phone: 204-79-3492

Dauphin Office
138 1st Avenue SW, Unit A
Dauphin, MB R7N 1S2
Phone: 204-622-4666

The Pas Office
P.O. Box 4062
1 – 236 Edwards Avenue
Phone: 204-627-4837
The Pas, MB R9A 1S6

Thompson Office
1st Floor – 3 Station Road
Thompson, MB R8N 0N3
Phone: 204-677-1211

Legal Aid Manitoba is an organization operating across the province that works to represent Manitobans who may not otherwise have access to fair and affordable court representation. Their services are delivered through the Public Interest Law Centre, which often represents those with low incomes, individuals with disabilities, immigrants, seniors, and prisoners. Their staff and private bar lawyers are able to travel to more than 40 communities surrounding the major cities listed above. They also offer Collaborative Law, an alternative to court, that will help couples work together to achieve what is best for their children.

A Woman's Place (NorWest Co-Op Community Health)

200 – 323 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R1N 0X4
Phone: 204-940-6624
785 Keewatin Street
Winnipeg, MB R2X 3B0
Phone: 204-938-5912

Services offered include consultation services with a lawyer who is available for women who are thinking about leaving a domestic violence relationship or if they have been abused. Some services available are legal representation, legal advice and information, and presentations on family law.

Legal Help Centre

202 – 393 Portage Avenue (2nd Floor Portage Place)
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6
Phone: 204-258-3096

The Legal Help Centre works with the community to improve access to legal systems for individuals that may otherwise not have the support or ability. They provide referrals, legal help, and public legal education and information and their services are free for those who have family incomes less than \$50,000 per year. Their Drop-In Clinics are open every Tuesday and Thursday from 1-4:30 PM. Referrals from the Drop-In Clinics can be made to their Family Law Clinic, which is a specific service geared toward individuals representing themselves in a family law matter. Finally, they offer public legal education workshops which are free but require registration.

Manitoba: Legal Services

Mediation & Conciliation Services

Family Conciliation Services (FCS)

2nd Floor – 379 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0T9
Phone: 204-945-7236
Toll-free: 1-800-282-8069

FCS provides a variety of services pertaining to conflict resolution for families that are experiencing separation or divorce. These services can be accessed directly by members of the public or may be mandated by the court for families to attend. Examples of the services they provide include: mediation, short-term counselling, educational programs for children, and the program For the Sake of the Children, which is intended to help parents understand the needs of their children during a separation or divorce. Services are offered at no cost.

Winnipeg.....	204-945-7236 1-800-282-8069
Brandon.....	204-726-6336 1-800-230-1885
Dauphin.....	204-622-2035 1-866-355-3494
Thompson.....	204-677-6570 1-866-677-6713
The Pas.....	204-627-8311 1-866-443-2292
Flin Flon.....	204-687-1700 1-866-443-2291
Swan River.....	204-734-3491 1-888-269-6498

ADR Institute of Manitoba (ADRIIM)

Online Network
Email: admin@adrmanitoba.ca
Toll-free: 1-877-489-7452
Website: www.adrmanitoba.ca/

The ADR Institute of Manitoba (ADRIIM) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization which provides the public with access to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) through arbitration, mediation and other methods. The ADRIIM website provides a search tool to assist people with finding a mediator in Manitoba.

Mediation Services Winnipeg (Restorative Action Centre)

302 – 1200 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0T5

Manitoba: Legal Services

Phone: 204-925-3410

Toll-free: 1-866-925-3410

Email: info@mediationserviceswpg.ca

Mediation Services Winnipeg offers families, communities, and workplaces assistance in addressing challenges they may be experiencing in their relationships. They are a neutral third party that has experience with non-violent conflict resolution and mediation. Their services are offered at very low cost and often there is no charge at all. Individuals must self-refer to access this service and may call to apply. Their family conflict service helps families with a variety of relational challenges and though they do not provide specific divorce mediation, they can assist separated parents with facilitated conversations regarding parenting plans and communication.

Facilitated Solutions

141 Marion Street

Winnipeg, MB R2H 0T3

Phone: 204-774-5389

Facilitated Solutions provide divorce mediation services through a voluntary and collaborative problem-solving process. Mediators work with both parties to reach outcomes that are acceptable to everyone involved in the conflict. Facilitated Solutions approach focusses primarily on equipping and supporting people to prevent, manage, and resolve conflict.

Law, Legislation, & Policy

Criminal

Federal

There is no specific offence of family violence or IPV in the Criminal Code, but acts of family violence are still crimes across Canada and can be considered as such under some of the sections that follow. The Divorce Act is also a relevant piece of federal legislation that deals with court proceedings, custody issues, and child support services for couples who are seeking a divorce in Canada. Finally, the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights outlines the rights of crime victims in Canada.



Criminal Code:

Sections 265-268: Assault

These sections of the Code detail the different types of assault and relevant consequences. These include: uttering threats, applying force to another person, causing bodily harm to a person with or without a weapon, wounding or maiming a person, and so on.

Sections 280-283: Child Abduction

These sections deal with the abduction of children under various ages and are explained as taking a young person away from the care of their guardian or parent without that guardian or parent's knowledge. Section 282 specifically addresses the consequences intended for those who harbour or take away a person under the age of 14 in contravention of the provisions of a custody order they are lawfully obligated to adhere to.

Section 279: Forcible Confinement

This section outlines that imprisoning a person against their will is subject to being guilty of either an indictable offence or a punishable offence.

Section 229-231: Homicide

These sections explain how culpable homicide is murder and causing someone's death, meaning to cause someone's death, or meaning to cause bodily harm that will result in death are all crimes with severe consequences.

Section 810: Peace Bonds

Even where no offence has been committed yet, if personal injury or damage is feared, this section of the Code allows courts to order peace bonds which require individuals to maintain certain conditions to ensure peace is kept.

Section 271-273: Sexual Assault

Similar to the sections on physical assault and its consequences, these sections detail the consequences for those who commit a sexual assault. Sexual assault with a weapon or subsequent offences after an initial conviction are also discussed.

Section 264: Stalking/Criminal Harassment

This section acknowledges that no person should engage in conduct such as

repeatedly following someone from place to place, watching their dwellings, or engaging in threatening conduct that forces someone to fear for their safety. Appropriate consequences are named.

Canadian Victims Bill of Rights:

This bill maintains that crime has a harmful impact on the victims who have experienced it and on society in general. Therefore, it is important that the rights of the victims be considered throughout the criminal justice process. Victims have the right to ask for information about the justice system and about the progress of their case, as well as the status of the person who has harmed them or their loved ones. They also have the right to make victim impact statements in court and voice their opinions about the decisions that will affect them. Following the experience of crime or witnessing a crime, victims also have the right to security and privacy and to expect reasonable protection from intimidation. The bill also addresses the right a victim has to restitution.



Provincial

The main piece of legislation that is considered in Manitoba is the *Domestic Violence and Stalking Act* which is designed to complement the protections already present in the Criminal Code. It offers further protection to victims of family violence.

Domestic Violence and Stalking Act

This legislation has been in effect since 1999 and is designed for those who are victims of stalking and domestic violence. It outlines the many opportunities individuals have to remedy their situation. Two different types of orders are created by the Act: Protection Orders, which are obtained from a Justice of the Peace of the Provincial Court, and Prevention Orders, which are obtained from the Court of the Queen's Bench. Protection Orders will prohibit the respondent from being at the applicant's residence, place of employment, following them, contacting them, and so on. Protection Order Designates are also available 24/7 at various shelters and agencies across the province who are able to assist applicants in obtaining an order if relief is needed immediately. Prevention Orders mean judges and the court can order relief necessary to protect the applicant from domestic violence or stalking. This sometimes means seizure of items used by the respondent, awarding sole occupation of the family residence to the applicant, or prohibiting the respondent from dealing with the applicant's property. Applications can also be made for temporary Prevention Orders without notice to the respondent if the applicant's needs are urgent.

Family

Federal

Child Support Guidelines

These guidelines seek to create a fair standard of support for children that will ensure they continue to experience financial benefits from both parents following separation. The objectives are to reduce conflict between spouses and to ensure fair and consistent treatment of everyone involved in the process. Child support amounts will differ depending on the income of those involved and the age of the children. It is often voiced by the public and by various advocacy groups and professionals that the guidelines require a clearer and more specific definition of what violence is and how child support is impacted by it.

Divorce Act

The Divorce Act governs divorce in Canada and has done so since it was first passed in 1968. This ensures both spouses are on equal footing in pursuing a divorce and specifies the grounds that are included. On May 22, 2018, the federal government introduced new legislation to make amendments to the Act, specifically so that it would include measures for dealing with family violence. Bill C-78 proposed that divorce courts would have to take family violence into account—a list of factors would be added to the Divorce Act to help courts assess the seriousness of the violence. Additionally, before parenting or support orders would be made, the courts would address any other orders involving the divorcing parties. This would ensure there would be no conflicts with potential orders made by a criminal court (such as a restraining order).

Provincial

Child and Family Services Act

The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba describes this Act as intending to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of children through maintaining their best interests. It also mandates that the family is the basic unit of society and should be preserved and supported. With those values in mind, the Act details the administration guidelines behind Child and Family Services, the services to families, child protection regulations, guidelines to dealing with children in care etc.

Family Maintenance Act

This legislation is intended to ensure and enforce support between spouses and for their

children, even after the marriage has dissolved. The Act outlines the responsibilities of parents to support their children and ensure their health, education, and general well-being are maintained, even if the child is not in the custody of one of the parents. It details the obligation of parents to disclose financial information to the other party for the purpose of child support, if required, and the court's ability to have a child support order made if a parent is not following the agreed upon provisions for their children. Custody of children is also outlined the best interests of the child are emphasized as the factor involved in custodial decisions.

Family Modernization Act

This legislation includes the Family Dispute Resolution Pilot Project, which is meant to create a process outside the court system that facilitates fair resolution of family disputes. The project applies to disputes about custody, access, or support, as well as disputes about property between spouses or common-law partners. The project includes two phases:

1. The facilitated resolution phase, where parties are assisted by a resolution officer to reach an agreement)
2. Adjudication phase, where an adjudicator makes a recommended order to resolve a family dispute that has not been resolved in the first phase.

This legislation also includes considerations regarding the risks when domestic violence and/or stalking are involved. Before taking action to resolve family disputes, officials involved will consider whether taking action will put any parties or children at risk. Finally, this Act includes information about a Child Support Service, which will operate in the same way it is intended in the Family Maintenance Act, meaning the service may calculate child support in accordance with the child support guidelines.