

Mandatory Information Program (MIP) Notice for the Public

For Hamilton, Kitchener & Waterloo and Niagara regions, Wellington, Brant, Haldimand & Norfolk counties

You must complete a Mandatory Information Program (MIP) in all contested family cases before you will be permitted to appear before a judge. The MIP session is in addition to any other steps in your case.

The MIP will take approximately two hours if your matter before the court involves children or approximately an hour and a half if it does not.

Make arrangements to arrive early. Latecomers will not be admitted.

YOU MUST BRING YOUR MIP NOTICE WITH YOU TO THE SESSION so that the presenter can confirm your attendance.

Your MIP session is in addition to any other steps in your case, including a First Appearance or Case Conference. The MIP must be completed before attending the Case Conference.

Who is required to attend the MIP?

Both parties must complete a Mandatory Information Program (MIP) with limited exceptions.

MIP attendance is not required for the following cases:

- Joint divorces
- Cases that only ask for a divorce
- Cases that only request the incorporation of the terms of an agreement or prior court order
- Cases that only ask for costs or that ask only for a divorce and costs
- Motions to change a final order or agreement that only ask for child and/or spousal support

If you do not attend a MIP, you will not be able to provide the court with a certificate of attendance, which may delay your case. It is up to the judge to determine how the case will proceed if you do not attend a MIP. You only need to attend the MIP once. **You can attend the MIP in any Ontario Family Court that is most convenient for you**, but file the certificate in the jurisdiction that your case is being heard. To find a listing of court addresses, visit the Ministry of the Attorney General's website: http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/courts/Court_Addresses/

What if I can't attend on the date scheduled?

You may ask to be rescheduled by calling the Information and Referral Coordinator in Hamilton at 905-645-5252, ext. 2516, in Kitchener at 519-741-3200 x3174, in Guelph at 519-824-4100 x218, in Brantford at 226-920-8109, in Simcoe and Cayuga at 226-931-1617, in St. Catharines at 905-988-6200 x475 and in Welland at 905-735-0010 x299. You can also send an email with your details to info@axisfamilymediation.com.

What will be covered at the MIP?

At the session you will be provided with information to help you make informed decisions about next steps and options available to resolve your family law case including information about: Effects of separation and divorce on parties and children; and Alternatives to litigation; and The court process

The session will also include some general legal information but not legal advice specific to your case. Legal advice can only be provided by a lawyer who you see on your own including Duty Counsel or Advice Lawyers from Legal Aid Ontario.

What if I am the respondent and don't want the applicant to know when I am scheduled to go to the MIP?

You may ask to be rescheduled by calling the Information and Referral Coordinator in Hamilton at 905-645-5252, ext. 2516, in Kitchener at 519-741-3200 x3174, in Guelph at 519-824-4100 x218, in Brantford at 226-920-8109, in Simcoe and Cayuga at 226-931-1617, in St. Catharines at 905-988-6200 x475 and in Welland at 905-735-0010 x299. You can also send an email with your details to info@axisfamilymediation.com.

What if the other party shows up to my MIP session?

Tell the MIP facilitator or either presenter. Make sure to show them your Notice, which will set out the date and time you've been scheduled to attend. If you are not comfortable with the other party's presence, the facilitator or presenter will ask the other party to leave. If the other party refuses to leave, steps will be taken to ensure your safety.

What if I want to bring someone with me to my MIP session?

Due to space restrictions, we cannot guarantee a seat for support people. If space becomes limited, priority goes to registered attendees. Parties who do not speak English or French may bring someone to the session to interpret for them. Interpreters will be given priority for any extra available seats before other types of support people.

Can I bring my children?

No. Children will not be permitted at the MIPs. Please make other arrangements for childcare.

What if I have feedback or comments about the MIP session I attended?

We welcome your feedback on the Mandatory Information Program. At the end of the MIP, you will be provided with a link to complete an on-line survey, or you can access the link directly at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G2TGQBV>. This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete and will help us improve our services to you. Your responses are anonymous and confidential. Thank you in advance to those who take the time to participate.

Accessibility for People with Disabilities

If you have a disability and may need accommodation to participate in the MIP session or would like to know about the accessibility features of the building and meeting space, please call the Information and Referral Coordinator in Hamilton at 905-645-5252, ext. 2516, in Kitchener at 519-741-3200 x3174, in Guelph at 519-824-4100 x218, in Brantford at 226-920-8109, in Simcoe and Cayuga at 226-931-1617, in St. Catharines at 905-988-6200 x475 and in Welland at 905-735-0010 x299. You can also send an email with your details to info@axisfamilymediation.com. Some accommodations may not be able to be provided unless we receive enough advance notice. You may be asked to attend another MIP session if we cannot make arrangements for accommodations in time for your session.