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1. Justice Canada Survey of Family Law

The Department of Justice Canada is surveying practising family lawyers in an effort to obtain their input with respect to a couple of areas of family law. There are not many national sources of data that provide detail and context as to the experiences of Canadians in relation to the family justice system. The Department has conducted surveys at recent National Family Law Programs and previously through the Canadian Bar Association. With the current survey, the Department of Justice Canada is interested in reaching the greatest number of potential respondents and has also enlisted the assistance of various Law Societies to provide notification of the survey's availability.

The survey contains questions on two areas of family law: income information and disclosure, and access compliance. The survey is hosted on the Department's Web site and respondents require a password to access and complete it. Responses will be completely anonymous. We are asking a few questions to provide context for the answers, such as the province or territory of the respondent, the size of the city they work in, and whether they have a Unified Family court in their area.

The Department of Justice Canada is looking for this input as part of its ongoing monitoring of the *Divorce Act* and the *Federal Child Support Guidelines* and in order to obtain a picture of the nature of cases proceeding through lawyers' caseloads. The results of this survey will be used in upcoming analyses and may be included in departmental reports, such as the Selected Statistics series, which are available at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pad-rpad/rep-rap/index.html#res>.

To access the survey, visit https://ot1x0002.justice.gc.ca/rsd_surveys/en/fsl.htm. The username to use is "justice." The password to use is also "justice." Please note that both are case sensitive.

2. Sharing Care & Control Despite Restrictive Bail Conditions: ON CJ

The Ontario Court of Justice in *Shaw v. Shaw*, 2008 ONCJ 130 (CanLII) commented at length on the difficulties of those cases where criminal assault charges and resulting bail conditions (described in the judgment as impacting the family "...with the disruptive force of a hand grenade...") hamper the ability of the court to make orders relating to custody and access based upon the best interests of the children. Here the mother had been charged with assault and the court nonetheless ordered interim care and control to both parents on a rotating alternate week basis despite the difficulties posed by the restrictions on communication between the parents.

3. Upcoming PD Opportunities for Family Lawyers

Following are listed some upcoming professional development opportunities for family lawyers:

- *Muslim and Canadian Family Laws Workshop* - Presented by the Canadian Counsel of Muslim Women and designed to inform lawyers, mediators and social service providers about the choices Canadian Muslim women have under Shari'a and Canadian family law. The workshop takes place on May 14, 2008 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at University of Winnipeg, Room 2M70. Contact bilquiskhan@shaw.ca for details and to register.
 - *Innovative Strategies For Effective Communication*, a workshop with Sharon Ellison, presented by Collaborative Practice Manitoba and the Manitoba Bar Association and taking place May 20 & 21, 2008 at 603 Wellington Crescent from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For further information, contact plane@tmlawyers.com.
 - The Federation of Law Societies' [National Family Law CLE Program](#), July 14-17, 2008 in Muskoka, Ontario
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4. Corrections to Web Addresses from March eLaw Family Law Update

The links to the Federal Justice Family Law Resources website provided in our March 2008 eLaw Family Law Update were all changed on March 31, 2008 when that website was updated. The current links (as of April 15, 2008) are:

- [Parenting After Divorce](#)
 - [Topics in Family Law - A Collection of Articles](#)
 - [Resources for Children databank](#)
 - [What happens next? Information for kids about separation and divorce](#)
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