



THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Effective Date: 17 May 2021

FAM 10

PRACTICE DIRECTION

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES ON FAMILY FORMS AND ORDERS

Purpose

To clarify the use of electronic signatures on forms* and orders made under the *Family Law Act*, S.B.C. 2011, c. 25 (FLA), *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 46 (CFCSA), *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 127 (FMEA), *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act*, S.B.C. 2002, c. 29, and *Adult Guardianship Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 6. (collectively “Family Form or Order”).

* For the purpose of this Practice Direction, “form” means a court form where a signature is required, but does not include a Financial Statement or an Affidavit.

Application

This practice direction applies to all court registries in the Province.

Directions

1. A party or counsel may use an electronic signature (in lieu of handwritten signature) to sign a Family Form or Order. An electronic signature includes a digital image of a handwritten signature or a signature drawn in digital ink (by using, for example, a stylus, mouse, or trackpad), but does not include a typewritten name or typewritten certificate-based digital signature.
2. If a party or counsel uses an electronic signature to sign a Family Form or Order, they should **only file the electronically signed** version of a Family Form or Order at the applicable [court registry](#). They should **not** additionally file a copy of a Family Form or Order with their handwritten signature.

History of Practice Direction

- Original practice direction effective May 17, 2021.

I make this practice direction pursuant to my authority under the *Provincial Court Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 379, Rule 8(11) of the *Provincial Court (Child, Family and Community Services Act) Rules*, B.C. Reg. 533/95, and Rule 160 of the *Provincial Court Family Rules*, B.C. Reg. 120/2020.

Melissa Gillespie
Chief Judge
Provincial Court of British Columbia