



Collaborative Decision Making in Child Welfare

Collaborative Decision-Making (“CDM”) processes are out-of-court options that give families an opportunity to share their voice and contribute to decisions and plans being made about them and their children. The Collaborative Decision-Making Navigator (“Navigator”) project helps Indigenous and racialized families obtain the information and support needed to identify available CDM options, make decisions about the best processes for them, and access any necessary support and resources to participate.

CDM processes include Child Protection Mediation, Family Group Conferences, Family Case Planning Conferences, Traditional Decision-Making Processes, and Youth Transition Conferences. Many of these processes are not well known or understood. Lack of information can result in missed opportunities to resolve issues quickly and collaboratively.

What does the Navigator do?

The Navigator helps service providers learn more about CDM processes and empowers them to further support their clients. Workshops and online resources are available to equip service providers to guide their clients in choosing the most effective option for their unique situations. Service providers may also register for the free conference [Shared Path: Advancing Collaborative Decision-Making in Child Welfare](#), which will provide two-days of learning on supporting clients in CDM processes.

The Navigator can also help families identify options and connect them with Collaborative Decision-Making processes.



Navigator services are free to families involved in child protection matters with the Ministry of Child and Family Development or an Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency. Services are available virtually/over the phone to anyone in British Columbia.

Who should contact the Navigator?

- Any member of a racialized family who is engaged in a child welfare matter with the Ministry of Children and Family Development or an Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency, including a parent, grandparent, or youth.
- Resource or support workers who are supporting racialized families in child welfare matters.
- Parent's counsel and other lawyers and legal advocates seeking additional information and resources on collaborative decision-making options for their clients.

Contact Us

Contact the Navigator Project at 1-877-656-1300 ext. 104 (toll free) or email navigator@mediatebc.com. A member of our team will be in touch with you shortly.