

USE OF A SUPPORT PERSON IN CIVIL AND FAMILY PROCEEDINGS

1. A litigant in a civil or family case who does not have a lawyer representing him/her, may ask the presiding judge or master to allow the litigant to have a support person sit with the litigant at the counsel table in the courtroom to provide assistance to the litigant.
2. A support person may be a friend or a relative.
3. A support person must not be someone who:
 - a. may be a witness in the hearing or trial; or
 - b. is paid for their services.
4. A support person may provide the following assistance in court:
 - a. taking notes;
 - b. organizing documents;
 - c. making quiet suggestions to the litigant;
 - d. providing emotional support; and
 - e. any other task approved of by the judge or master.
5. A support person is only permitted to address the court or speak on behalf of the litigant in exceptional circumstances and only with the advance permission of the judge or master.
6. A judge or master has discretion to refuse to allow a support person to sit with a litigant in any circumstance that the judge or master considers appropriate including where the presence of the support person could be or becomes disruptive to the proceedings or would otherwise be unfair to an opposing party.