

# Emerging Family Lawyers Forum | FLO Guidelines

## Emerging Family Lawyers Forum Guidelines

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This Guideline for the [Emerging Family Lawyers Forum \("ELF"\)](#) includes:

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This Guideline is made further to the terms and definitions in the [Universal Terms of Use](#) and [FLO Community Terms of Use](#).

## ELF Description & Purpose

ELF is a FLO Working Group (as defined in the [FLO Community Terms of Use](#)) and a subgroup within the [Family Law Organizer \(FLO\)](#) community. ELF is intended to benefit and serve members of the Law Society of BC (lawyers or articling students) who:

- Practice family law, or are doing their articles with a principal who practices family law, and
- Have been called to the Bar in any Canadian jurisdiction for not more than 7 years, or have yet to be called.

The purpose of ELF is help its members:

- Create an environment of collegiality within the family bar
- Host educational and networking events for its members ("ELF Events")
- Share experiences and ask questions, and
- Assist one another in the practice of family law

## ELF Features: Forum and Events

ELF's primary features are its ELF Discussion page ("ELF Forum"), and the ELF Events.

The **ELF Forum** is an area on the Lawbster platform reserved exclusively for ELF's members. The ELF Forum is a FLO Working Group Page as defined in the [FLO Community Terms of Use](#). ELF Members may post and respond to posts in accordance with these Guidelines, the FLO Community Terms of Use, and the Universal Terms of Use.

An unofficial summary of the posting rules is that ELF content must be professional, relevant to family law, and respectful, while strictly protecting confidentiality. Off-topic, defamatory, advertising/solicitation, or gossiping posts are not permitted, and breaches may lead to removal.

**ELF Events** are organized and hosted by ELF members. Attendance at ELF Events, whether in-person or remote, is restricted to ELF Members only, with the exception of FLO Steering Committee members and pre-approved individuals (e.g. presenters or special guests).

ELF Events may be posted on the [FLO Calendar](#) where all FLO members can see the event listing, but listing the ELF Event on the FLO Calendar does not amount to an open invitation to non-ELF members.

ELF Events may be for CPD, or merely for networking, but shall be of interest or benefit to family law practitioners who are early in their careers.

## Admission and Membership Requirements

### Who can join ELF?

Any Law Society of BC member who is a lawyer or articling student is eligible to become an ELF member if they:

- Practice family law in British Columbia, or are doing their articles with a principal who practices family law in British Columbia,
- Have been called to the Bar in any Canadian jurisdiction for not more than 7 years, or have yet to be called, and
- Are a member of FLO

### Requirements

All prospective members requesting to join ELF must have read and be prepared to abide by:

- These Guidelines
- [Universal Terms of Use](#)
- [FLO Community Terms of Use](#)

Furthermore, each prospective and active member must maintain a user profile that states, at a minimum:

1. their **practice area** (family law plus any other practice areas as applicable)
2. their **professional designation**

Listing the above user profile information is a precondition to admission, and is an ongoing requirement for being a member of ELF. Those whose user profiles do not contain the required information will not be admitted.

[To edit your user profile, [click edit profile](#), then click on "Member Details" to see relevant fields.]

Those who qualify can apply to join and must complete an acknowledgement of these guidelines and their confidentiality duties ([complete form online](#)).

### Changes in eligibility

ELF members who no longer meet the eligibility criteria for membership, or who do not maintain the required information in their user profile, may have their membership in ELF revoked.

# Governance

As a FLO Working Group, ELF is overseen by the FLO Steering Committee, however the following duties may be delegated by the FLO Steering Committee to one or more volunteers among the ELF membership:

- Reviewing and approving ELF membership requests
- Moderating posts to the ELF Forum, and requesting removal of content in accordance with these Guidelines
- Removing ELF members who are, on clear evidence, no longer eligible
- Planning, recruiting speakers for, and extending invitations to non-ELF members for ELF Events

The FLO Steering Committee will keep a record in its meeting minutes of any ELF members who have been delegated to perform the above delegated duties (the "ELF Delegate", or "ELF Delegates").

Further questions about ELF governance, and any appeals of decisions made by an ELF Delegate, should be directed to the [FLO Steering Committee](#).

## Confidentiality and Appropriate Content

### Duty to keep ELF content confidential

To protect ethical and legal duties of confidentiality and privilege while encouraging members to participate freely by ensuring members-only discussions, ELF members shall:

- Only post content (including but not limited to questions or replies) relating to a file they are involved in in a manner that ensures no other individual familiar with the file (including opposing counsel) could draw a connection between the posted content and the specific file
- Not use the ELF Forum to gossip or complain about, or risk defamation of, any individual
- Not distribute content shared to ELF to anyone who is not an ELF member, unless expressly permitted by the content owner, or unless the content is otherwise publicly available (i.e. case law or published legal research)
- Follow all ethical and legal duties surrounding confidentiality and non-disclosure, including the Code of Professional Conduct and any implied undertakings respecting disclosure

### Relevant content

All content posted to the ELF Forum must be relevant to the practice of family law or meet the purposes of ELF as set out above. Off-topic posts reduce the value of the ELF Forum and are not a welcome distraction for other ELF members. Content that fails to meet the criteria for relevance is subject to removal at the sole discretion of a FLO Steering Committee Member.

### Appropriate content

Users are specifically reminded that the [Universal Terms of Use](#):

- Defines and prohibits Inappropriate Behaviour

- Prohibits posting of Commercial Messages except where expressly allowed
- Contains rules respecting privileged and confidential information
- Contains rules on identity of User accounts and responsibilities of Users to control access to their accounts
- Contains disclaimers with respect to Content monitoring by CLBC or Administrators and instructions for reporting Inappropriate Behaviour

Do not use the [ELF Discussion](#) page to speak derogatorily or complain about other professionals, and be mindful of the risks of defamation.

Commercial Messages (as defined in the [Universal Terms of Use](#)) that are related to requesting or providing family law-related referrals are allowed on ELF, but solicitation and advertising is not allowed.

A [FLO Steering Committee](#) Member, other than an employee of CLBC, is a decision maker responsible for enforcing these Guidelines and may remove Content and/or revoke a User's membership in ELF if, in the decision maker's sole discretion, these Guidelines are breached.

## Emerging Family Lawyers Forum (“ELF”) Registration

The Emerging Family Lawyers Forum (or “ELF”) is a working group for lawyers or articling students, who have been practicing family law for 7 years or less. Read the ELF Guidelines then submit this form to join.

### **Confirm Certification and Agreement\***

I certify that

- ✓ I am a BC family lawyer or articling student practicing family law
- ✓ I have practiced family law for 7 years or less
- ✓ My profile includes my professional designation and practice area
- ✓ I have read and agree to the ELF Guidelines

When you submit this form, its contents will be sent to one or more members of the FLO Steering Committee for review.