

Online and Print Resources

FINDING CALIFORNIA LAWS RELEVANT TO FAMILY LAW

California's Legislature Website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

- Click on "California Law" to search any or all of the 29 California Codes

COURT RULES

California State Court Rules <http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules>

California Rules of Court; rules that apply in all Superior Courts in California.

Local Rules <http://www.courts.ca.gov/3027.htm>

Links to the local rules for all superior courts in California (each county has rules that apply only in its county).

FORMS

California State "Judicial Council" Forms <http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm>

Judicial Council forms can be used in any Superior Court in California; forms are in fillable PDF format. The California Courts have designated some Judicial Council forms as mandatory meaning that they must be used, others are designated optional. To see if a form is mandatory or optional, look for these words in the bottom left-hand corner of the front page of each form.

Local Forms (for County Superior Court), e.g., for Los Angeles County:

<http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/forms/ui/popup.aspx>

Each county Superior Court issues local forms which can be accessed on the county's Superior Court website.

ONLINE RESOURCES: LEGAL DICTIONARIES

California Courts Self Help Center, Self Help Glossary: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-glossary.htm>

Findlaw's Legal Dictionary: <http://dictionary.findlaw.com>

Nolo's Plain English Law Dictionary: <http://www.nolo.com/dictionary>

ONLINE RESOURCES: SELF HELP

California Courts Online Self-Help Center: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm>

Comprehensive resource for information on court procedures, locating court forms and facilitating referrals to legal service programs and lawyer referral services.



- “Families and Children” section: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-family.htm>
- “Divorce or Separation” section: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-divorce.htm>
- “Abuse & Harrasment” section: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-abuse.htm>

Centro de Ayuda las Cortes de California: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/13289.htm>
Spanish language version of California Courts Online Self-Help Center.

Reference Guide to the California Courts’ Self-Help Centers and Family Law Facilitators, California Courts: http://courts.ca.gov/documents/Public_Locations_Directory_4-9-12.pdf

Downloadable brochure provides locations for family law facilitators and self-help centers located in every county in California.

LawHelpCA.org: <http://www.lawhelpca.org>

California’s statewide legal services website to help individuals find legal information and referrals in civil matters.

California State Bar Consumer Pamphlets: <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets.aspx>

Family law topics covered, include: “What Should I Know About Divorce and Custody” and “Can the Law Help Protect Me From Domestic Violence?”

Legal Information Reference Center: <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets.aspx>

EBSCO host searchable database of Nolo Press publications. California consortium provides free access by county.

Example: LA Law Library: <http://www.lalawlibrary.org/research/onsite/default.aspx>

Login: CA / LA

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR FACILITATING REFERRALS

CA Courts Self Help Center: Lawyers and Legal Help

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/1001.htm>

Information from the official California Courts website about finding free and low-cost legal help. This website also provides information about the process of finding and hiring an attorney and links to lawyer referral services.

LawHelpCA.org

<http://lawhelpca.org/find-legal-help>

Use the LawHelpCA referral directory to find legal aid offices, lawyer referral services and other free and low-cost legal services in your county.

California State Bar Pamphlet: How Can I Find and Hire the Right Lawyer?

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets/HiringaLawyer.aspx>

A State Bar of California pamphlet with information about the process of finding and hiring a lawyer.

American Bar Association Lawyer Referral Services Directory

<http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/lris/directory/>

Links to lawyer referral services in each state via clickable map; also includes information on obtaining legal aid, hiring a lawyer, and self-representation.

California State Bar Lawyer Referral Service

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/LawyerReferralServicesLRS.aspx>

Listing of State Bar approved Lawyer Referral Services throughout California.



California Public Law Libraries <http://www.publiclawlibrary.org>

Official website of the California Council of County Law Librarians; includes a statewide directory of California County Law Libraries; a link to AskNow, an online virtual reference program; and links to legal information and self-help centers.

PRINT RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT YOUR COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Laws

California's Two Annotated Codes

West's Annotated California Codes

Deerings ' California Codes, Annotated

Directories

Rainbow Resource Directory – see heading Legal Assistance for a list of local free and low cost legal service providers.

Encyclopedias

California Jurisprudence: Vol. 32, 33, 33A, discussion of family law

Family Law Guides (Aimed at Attorneys)

California Child and Spousal Support, Establishing Modifying and Enforcing (CEB) - excellent resource for attorneys and individuals dealing with support issues.

California Child Custody and Litigation and Practice (CEB) - covers all aspects of custody including parenting plans, orders, and “change of circumstances”.

California Family Law Litigation Guide (Lexis) - comprehensive multi-volume set focusing on litigation issues.

California Forms of Pleading and Practice (Lexis) – vol. 18, 19 discussion of divorce, custody and support.

California Marital Settlement and Other Family Law Agreements (CEB) - includes sample custody, support, and premarital agreements.

California Practice Guide Family Law (Rutter Group) - multi volume set on all aspects of family law.

California Practice Guide Family Law Forms (Rutter Group) - accompanying set with sample filled-in forms, especially useful for self-represented and attorneys outside of regular practice area.

Practice Under the California Family Code (CEB) – single softbound volume covers all family law issues including dissolution, custody, support, modification, and litigation.

SELF-HELP BOOKS

Your Partner in Legal Research Since 1891
301 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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www.lalawlibrary.org



How to Do Your Own Divorce in California in 2012 and thru February 2013 (Nolo) - Complete guide for uncontested divorce cases. Includes forms needed to do your own divorce along with step-by-step instructions.

How to Solve Divorce Problems – In or Out of Court (Nolo) - This book can be used for divorce cases that are headed to court.

The California Family Law Paralegal (Carolina Academic Press) - Practical, hands-on information specific to California for the paralegal student who is interested in the area of family law.

California Family Law Basics (Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law) - A step-by-step guide to California divorce, paternity, custody, support, domestic violence and property pleadings and procedures with sample forms.

LIST OF RELEVANT LAWS

California's Legislature Website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

- Grounds for Divorce in California – California Family Code §2310
- Procedures for Service of Process – California Code of Civil Procedure §413.10
- Venue – California Code of Civil Procedure §395(a)
- Child Custody – California Family Code §3000 *et seq*
 - Best Interest of the Child – California Family Code §3011, 3020(a)
 - Child's health, safety, and welfare – California Family Code §3011
 - Frequent and continuing contact with both parents – California Family Code §3020(b)
 - History of abuse by a parent or a person seeking custody – California Family Code §3011(b), 3020(a)
 - Denial of custody in favor of non-parent – California Family Code §3041
 - Denial of visitation – California Family Code §3044
- Wishes of the Child – Testimony – California Family Code §3042
- Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) – California Family Code §3400-3465
- Child Support - California Family Code – California Family Code §3900 *et seq*
- Procedures for obtaining and modifying child support orders – California Family Code §3600 *et seq* and California Family Code §4000 *et seq*
- Calculating Child Support
 - Statewide Uniform Child Support Guideline – California Family Code §4055(a)
- County responsibility for child support enforcement – California Family Code §17400 *et seq*
- Spousal Support
 - Duty of a person to support his/her spouse – California Family Code §4300
 - Temporary spousal support – California Family Code §3600
 - Permanent spousal support – California Family Code §4320
- Paternity - California Family Code §7200
- Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) – California Family Code §6200 *et seq*
 - Support Person– California Family Code §6303(d)

