Custody & Parenting

Custody & Parenting

A parenting plan outlines the responsibilities and decision-making authority of each parent regarding their child's upbringing after a separation or divorce. The state prioritizes the best interests of the child and encourages shared parental responsibility whenever possible.

Divorce, Separation, & Annulment

Divorce, Separation, & Annulment

In Florida, divorce is legally referred to as a "dissolution of marriage." As a "no-fault" divorce state, neither spouse needs to prove wrongdoing by the other (such as adultery or abuse) to obtain a divorce. The only requirement is to state that the marriage is "irretrievably broken," meaning it cannot be repaired. The process is aim to ensure that both spouses, and any children from the marriage, are treated fairly during the separation and afterward.

Child Support

Child Support

Child support is money paid by one parent to the other parent to help support the parties' children and is intended to cover essential expenses to ensure the well-being of the children. To determine the amount of support needed the court considers the parents' income, the number of children, the needs of the children, and the time the children spend with each parent.

Learn More about Child Support

Domestic Violence & Abuse

Domestic Violence & Abuse

Domestic violence involves physical, emotional, and/or psychological harm inflicted by one partner on another in an intimate relationship. Recognizing abuse and seeking help is crucial for the safety and well-being of the victim. Getting help is important because domestic violence often escalates over time, and without intervention, the risk of serious harm increases. For immediate assistance, contact the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-500-1119.

Name Change

Name Change

A name change can be an important step for a person to move on from a bad situation, adopt a name that inspires them, or choose a name that is more strongly associated with a person's gender identity.

Guardianships

Guardianships

Guardianship of a minor is a legal process in which a court appoints a responsible adult to care for a child when the child's parents are unable or unwilling to do so. The guardian takes over parental responsibilities and makes decisions about the child's health, education, and welfare.

Learn More about Guardianships

Foster Youth

Foster Youth

When foster youth turn 18, they "age out" of the foster care system. This means they are now adults and no longer have the support of foster families or the state. Aging out can be very hard because many of these young people don't have family to help them as they start life on their

own. Foster youth who age out often face big challenges. They may struggle to find a place to live, finish school, or get a job. Without support, some may become homeless, have money problems, or feel alone. Many don’t have adults to guide them through important parts of life, like paying bills, applying for college, or getting health care. Aging out of foster care is tough, but with the right help, foster youth can build bright and successful futures.

Foster Care & Guardianship

Foster Care & Guardianship

Foster care is a temporary arrangement where children who cannot live with their biological parents due to abuse, neglect, or other family issues are placed in the care of state-approved foster families.

Learn More about Foster Care & Guardianship