



Family Support and Child Custody Law (DRL-201)

Course Description

This course looks at the history of alimony and child support and the evolution of both concepts over time. The course covers jurisdiction and at federal and interstate support mechanisms and institutions that have been developed to make enforcing support orders easier. It also covers the basics of child custody and visitation rights awarded to non-custodial parents, detailing the definitions and ramifications of sole custody and joint custody. It also explains enforcing and modifying custody orders and the mechanisms of preventing parental kidnapping on the state, federal and international levels.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the variety of domestic relations laws that come into play when a marriage legally ends to determine the disposition of the marital property;
- Differentiate among the different types of spousal support;
- Identify and analyze the factors used in calculating spousal support;
- Describe how the federal government enforces child support orders across state lines;
- Explain the differences between physical and legal custody and how and why they are bifurcated;
- Articulate the “best interests of child” standard and explain how it is applied;
- Discuss the differences between sole custody and joint custody and learn about how each are determined and awarded by the court;
- Analyze a non-custodial parent’s visitation rights and describe how a court sets a visitation schedule;
- Explore interstate and international child custody cases and apply federal laws that address child abduction.

Final Exam

Grades and credit recommendations are based solely on a final exam. When students are ready to take the final exam, they should register for a LawShelf account (or simply log in, for those with existing accounts). Go to the video-course page and click “Take the Final Exam” and pay the exam fee, where applicable. Students will be given instructions on how to take the exam. All exams are proctored by the Voice Proctor® proctoring system. An overview of the system is [provided here](#) and it requires no training or learning curve. Grades of 70% or above are considered

passing grades and qualify for recommended transfer credit.

The final exam is based on the video course modules. Additional resources detailed in this syllabus are helpful for background and for building greater understanding of the course materials. Inquiries can be made through the LawShelf Contact form on our website by clicking the “email us” button that appears at the bottom of most LawShelf pages. Transcripts can be ordered via Parchment, as detailed on our website.

Case Studies

Many LawShelf video courses include case studies. These do not necessarily teach new material but are meant to demonstrate how the materials covered in the course are applied by various courts. Concepts covered in the case studies are covered on the final exam; so watching the case studies is necessary before taking the exam. However, it is unnecessary to memorize the facts and details of the cases covered in these case studies.

Self-Quizzes

Video-course modules and case studies feature self-quizzes that consist of practice questions on the materials covered in the videos. These questions are presented for the benefit of the student and are **important to review before taking the final exam** because they are similar in style and substance to the questions on the final exam. These quizzes are not graded or monitored and there is no record of how students answer these questions. Students may answer these questions as many times as they like and are encouraged to keep re-taking the quizzes until they have mastered all the questions.

Study Guide

Introductory Videos

These videos provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Domestic Relations Law: Spousal Support and Alimony

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/domestic-relations-law-spousal-support-and-alimony/>

Child Support: Determination, Enforcement, Modification and Termination

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/child-support-determination-enforcement-modification-and-termination>

Domestic Relations Law: Determining Child Custody

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/domestic-relations-law-determining-child-custody/>

Termination of Parental Rights

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/family-law-termination-of-parental-rights>

Courseware Readings

These courseware readings provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Read the following sections of “Foundations of Law” courseware:

<https://lawshelf.com/coursewareview>

Domestic Relations (with all subchapters)

- **Introduction to Domestic Relations Law**
- **Contracts Related to Marriage**
- **Dissolution of the Marriage - Annulment and Divorce**
- **Dissolution of the Marriage - Financial Aspects**
- **Dissolution of the Marriage - Child Custody and Support**

Video Course Modules

These videos constitute the main part of the course and are they sources of the questions on the final exam.

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursescontentview/family-support-and-child-custody-law>

Part 1, Module 1: Introduction to Alimony and Child Support

Part 1, Module 2: Child Support

Part 1, Module 3: Spousal Support

Part 1, Module 4: The National View of Child and Spousal Support

Part 1, Module 5: Conflicts and Penalties

Part 1, Module 6: Determining Child Support and Spousal Support Amounts

Part 2, Module 1: Defining Child Custody

Part 2, Module 2: Sole Custody and Joint Custody

Part 2, Module 3: Determining and Awarding Visitation Rights

Part 2, Module 4: Enforcing and Modifying Custody and Visitation

Part 2, Module 5: Jurisdiction and International Child Custody Law

Case Study: Harris V. Harris

Case Study: Marriage of Ashagari

Supplemental Suggested Readings

These materials enable students to achieve a deeper understanding of the course materials and in applying the course to real-life situations.

The Child's Voice In Custody Litigation: An Empirical Survey And Suggestions For Reform,
Arizona Law Review

<http://www.arizonalawreview.org/pdf/45-3/45arizlrev629.pdf>

The Disparity Between Men and Women in Custody Disputes: Is Joint Custody The Answer To Everyone's Problems?

St. John's Law Review

<https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1522&context=lawreview>