



Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Family Law Division, Chambers of Lawrence P. Riff
111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

This letter is for people with family law cases in my court. This may be a difficult and confusing time for you. You may disagree with the other person in your case about support, how to divide property, or where your children will live. Our court offers resources and information that can help make this time less stressful for you. Here are some:



LACourt.org – Our website has information and resources that can help you

- Know what to expect at court and your hearing.
- Learn about options that are less stressful, quicker, and less expensive than a court hearing, and
- Get language help if you need a free interpreter or a disability accommodation for your hearing.



If you need a free interpreter or an accommodation because of a disability, please send us your

request at least **10 work days** before your hearing. If we cannot find an interpreter for your hearing date, we will reschedule your hearing. Fill out your request at: www.lacourt.org/irud/ui/index.aspx?ct=FL



Mediation for faster, less stressful, less expensive solutions

- If you have child custody issues and file for a Request for Order, mediation is mandatory. In Family Court Services, the mediator is a mental health professional experienced in helping parents focus on solutions and develop a parenting plan.
- If you come to court, the judge may refer you to lawyer assisted mediation.
- If you prefer to resolve your issues outside the court system, you may choose to go to a private mediator. These mediators can be lawyers or mental health professionals who will assist you with alternative solutions that can be faster, easier, and less expensive than going to court. You have the right to a court hearing and to have your case decided by a judge. But many parties, especially if they have children, find it much less stressful to solve all or part/s of their case outside of court. A mediator can explain and explore your options.



Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)

- The ODR program is available to parents to assist in negotiating custody and visitation arrangements and creating a 'parenting plan agreement'.
- Go to www.lascfamilaw.odr.com to get started.
- If you are able to resolve all child custody and visitation issues, you will **not** be required to attend an in-person mediation appointment at the courthouse.
- The program is free at this time.



Should you get a lawyer?

There are several ways to get legal advice and legal information, including:

- Hire a family law attorney for all or key parts of your case. Many lawyers offer "unbundled" or limited scope representation. This means they will help you with the most difficult parts of your case.
- Go to workshops at the court's self-help center to learn how to handle your case yourself. Learn more: www.lacourt.org/selfhelp/selfhelp.aspx
- Get help from a legal services agency or other non-profit organization. www.lacourt.org/selfhelp/divorceorseparation/SH_DS001.aspx



Are you afraid of the other party in your case?

You may bring a support person to court, but that person may not speak at the hearing. You can also ask the court to make orders to protect you. If you do not have an attorney and need help to complete your forms, you may look for a court location where these services are offered here: www.lacourt.org/selfhelp/abuseandharassment/SH_A11001.aspx



For other questions

Please visit our website (LACourt.org). And save this letter. You may need to use it as a guide later.

Sincerely,

Lawrence P. Riff, Supervising Judge, Family Law Division

Attention: This document contains important information. Please check the Family Law page of the Los Angeles Superior Court website for translation in (English, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, Armenian, Chinese) language.

Ուշադրություն. Այս փաստաթուղթը կարևոր տեղեկատվություն է պարունակում: Արևելահայերեն թարգմանության համար խնդրում ենք ստուգել Los Angeles-ի Առաջին աստիճանի դատարանի կայքի: Հասանելիան իրավունք էջը:

注意: 本文件包含重要信息。请查看洛杉矶高等法院网站的家庭法页。获取简体中文译本。

주의: 이 문서에는 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 로스앤젤레스 상급법원 웹사이트의 가족법 페이지에서 한국어 번역을 확인해 주십시오.

Lưu ý: Văn kiện này có chi tiết quan trọng. Xin xem bản dịch tiếng Việt ở trang Luật Gia Đình của website Tòa Thượng Thẩm Los Angeles.

Atención: Este documento contiene información importante. Consulte la página de derecho familiar del sitio web de la corte superior de Los Angeles para traducirlo al español.