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**ESTABLISHING OR
MODIFYING ORDERS FOR
CUSTODY/VISITATION:**
How to Prepare Your Legal Papers

- While you are waiting for class to begin, please:
- Mute your audio
- Print the class documents. Go to "Family Law Court Resources," "Family Law Facilitator Classes": www.santabarbara.courts.ca.gov
- Have a pen and paper available
- Be ready to start promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Thank you!

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Orders for custody/visitation:

Preparation of legal papers to go to court

Santa Barbara County Superior Court
Deborah K. Williams, J.D.

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**FAMILY LAW
FACILITATOR**

805.882.4660
www.sbcourts.org
Email: SBFLF@sbcourts.org

How can we help you...

- Court attorney who can help you better represent yourself
- Available to either side
- Nothing is confidential
- Can help you with legal papers
- Can help you with service of the legal papers
- Can help with the filing of papers
- FLF does **not** go to court with you
- FLF does **not** represent you

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“I don't remember who said this, but there really are places in the heart you don't even know exist until you love a child.”

Anne Lamott, author of Operating Instructions: A Journal of My Son's First Year


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INTRODUCTION

Remember: You can avoid preparing legal papers if you and the other parent attend FREE voluntary mediation first!

Call Family Court Services for an appt. 805-882-4667

Our goal in this class:
To help you to know what to put on the legal papers to go to court regarding custody and/or visitation. You want the judge to make decisions...



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STEPS TO BE ABLE TO GO TO COURT REGARDING CUSTODY AND VISITATION:

1. Must have a **court case** in Santa Barbara County Superior Court;
2. Must **attend once the free 2-hour PEACE** parenting class online;
- 3A. **Must attend voluntary mediation** through Family Court Services and come to an **agreement that is signed by a judge;**

OR

- 3B. **Must prepare legal papers (Request for Order FL-300) to get a court-ordered mediation appointment and a court hearing date;**
4. **Attend court-ordered Family Court Services mediation, and if there's no signed agreement, then;**
5. **Go to court** and have a judge make orders regarding custody and visitation

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OPTIONS FOR PREPARING LEGAL PAPERS TO GO TO COURT:

- **California Courts Self-Help Center:** Lots of Information and the free forms available that you complete on your own
- **Law Help Interactive:** Free forms that you complete yourself by answering written interview questions
- **Guide and File:** Answer online questions and automatically create the forms. File electronically or print and file on your own.

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Websites to create the legal forms:

California Courts Self-Help Center: Extensive information and free forms to complete on your own: <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/child-custody-and-parenting-time-index>

Law Help Interactive: By answering written interview questions, you complete legal forms for free: <https://www.butte.courts.ca.gov/self-help/online-resources>

Guide and File: Answer online questions on your own and your forms are created for free. You can then print the documents to serve and file or electronically file: www.guideandfile.com

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PREPARE Let's make sure you understand **the basics...**

<p>Physical Custody</p> <p>Means you have responsibility for the child on the day-to-day level</p>	<p>Legal Custody</p> <p>Means you have responsibility for making decisions regarding the child's welfare</p>	<p>Options: Pick One:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint legal and physical custody OR • Joint legal custody and sole physical custody OR • Sole physical and legal custody
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It's not about YOU...

THINK OF YOUR CHILDREN'S BEST INTERESTS

- Who can provide for the basics?
- What's unique about your situation: Age, health, personality, experiences and abilities of the kids?
- What kind of emotional ties exist between parent and child?



YOUR KIDS ARE NOT IN A SACK OF POTATOES!

- How cooperative are the parents?
- Is there any history of domestic abuse by a parent?

Goal: Stability and continuity for the child

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STEPS FOR GOING TO COURT REGARDING CUSTODY AND VISITATION

1	2	3	4	5
Have a court case in the Santa Barbara Superior Court	Attend the PEACE class	Do FREE voluntary mediation with Family Court Services 805-882-4667	If mediation doesn't work, prepare your legal papers	File and serve your papers. Prepare for court

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PEACE Parenting Class

- NOT offered in person
- Attend online any day and time of the week
- Must be able to print Certificate of Attendance
- File the Certificate of Attendance with court
- FREE

ENGLISH: <https://www.santabarbaracourts.ca.gov/divisions/family-law/peace-online>
ESPAÑOL: <https://www.santabarbaracourts.ca.gov/divisions/family-law/peace-en-linea>

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SPECIAL REQUESTS
to make in your legal papers...

If you don't ask for it,
you won't get it!



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OTHER IDEAS to insert in your legal papers:

- Request supervised visitation
- Request drug or alcohol testing
- Request parenting classes
- Request text to confirm visitation
- Request for child to speak to court



- Request cooperation to obtain passport for minor child or to travel
- Request authorization to move away with minor child
- Request all communication through TalkingParents.com or Our Family Wizard

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Co-Parenting Essentials Program, Online courses with certificate included!

POSSIBLE PARENTING CLASSES

<p>The SCOPE Program</p> <p>3 hr Parenthood Co-Parenting Education Program</p> <p>For Parents Ready to Co-parenting</p> <p>Understand what Your Children Need...</p> <p>Get Started Now!</p>	<p>The COPE Program</p> <p>8 hr Co-parenting Education for High Conflict Cases. Includes in 4 online groups. 3 hrs of Parenting Education on Your Case.</p> <p>Schedule Expert</p> <p>Get Started Now!</p>
<p>The STOP Program</p> <p>4 hr Strategies That Offer Peace Program</p> <p>Understand what Children Need</p> <p>Manage Conflict Effectively</p> <p>Get Started Now!</p>	<p>The CARES Program</p> <p>4 hr 18 hr program customized to your case with 300 specific case needs. Includes a Case Concise. Information Most Demand in Your Case.</p> <p>Schedule Expert</p> <p>Get it Now!</p>

<https://coparentingessentials.com/>

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CLASSES

- Dedicated Dads
- Connected Couples, Connected Families
- Parenting Classes



Our Locations

DADE COUNTY 1300 NW 12th St Miami, FL 33136 (305) 442-1111 Fax: (305) 442-1118	SANTA MONICA COUNTY FAMILY CENTER 12000 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90403 (310) 310-1111 Fax: (310) 310-1118	LOS ANGELES 11111 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310) 442-1111 Fax: (310) 442-1118	SHERIDAN COUNTY FAMILY SHERIDAN CENTER 200 W. 1st St Sheridan, WY 82801 (307) 744-1111 Fax: (307) 744-1118
DADE COUNTY FAMILY CENTER 1300 NW 12th St Miami, FL 33136 (305) 442-1111 Fax: (305) 442-1118	SANTA MONICA COUNTY FAMILY CENTER 12000 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90403 (310) 310-1111 Fax: (310) 310-1118	LOS ANGELES 11111 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310) 442-1111 Fax: (310) 442-1118	LOTTE PALACE BY THE POND 4001 The Pond Shirley, VA 22084 (561) 744-1111 Fax: (561) 744-1118

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CO-PARENTING COMMUNICATION

Website Resources


Separated or divorced parents may find their using an online co-parenting system to communicate issues such as scheduling changes, providing the other parent with academic, behavioral or medical information regarding their child, tracking events and activities, creating a shared calendar, and tracking co-parenting expenses to be helpful. It is very useful to use an online shared calendar. This is particularly helpful for parents who have difficulty communicating in-person, by phone or text, or using their personal e-mail addresses. It minimizes stressful discussions and may help to improve their communication which will benefit their children. The following is a list of some websites that provide this kind of management system.

- OurFamilyWizard.com
- BIFFParenting.com
- TalkingParents.com
- ShareWithYou.com

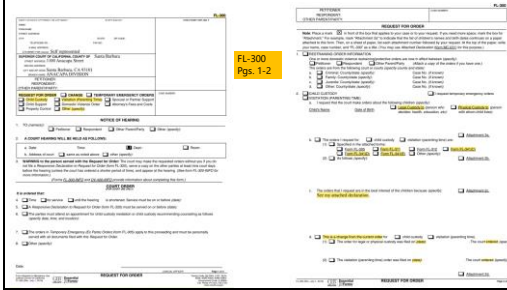
Santa Barbara County Superior Court does not endorse any online co-parenting communication program over the other. This list is not comprehensive, but is provided for the purpose of providing information about this resource, which may be helpful in improving overall communication regarding their children. Some of the websites are free, and some charge for their services. You may want to explore these websites to see which one is the best fit for you.



Special Email Programs to Use Instead of Texting!



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FL-300
Pgs. 1-2



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What the **Family Law Facilitator's Office** can do for you now:


- Direct you to the proper website to complete the necessary forms
- Review your documents if you scan them to **SBFLLF@sbcourts.org**. Make an appointment.
- Help you to get your documents properly filed and served
- Help you feel prepared for court



Best wishes and best of luck!

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Trust yourself

Thank you.

For further assistance, please:
call **805.882.4660**
or email us at **SBFLF@sbcourts.org**.

Check us out at
<https://www.santabarbara.courts.ca.gov>

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