

## Legal Resources

- ◆ For self-help information and packets on a variety of legal topics visit <http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/>.
- ◆ Ask a family member, friend, or coworker for a referral to a lawyer.
- ◆ Consult a lawyer referral service. See [www.wsba.org](http://www.wsba.org), under “Legal Directory.”
- ◆ For those with low income call the Northwest Justice Project’s CLEAR legal help line for advice and referrals at 1-888-201-1014.
- ◆ A list of legal service providers for those with low income who live within King County can be found by calling 211 or (206) 461-3200.
- ◆ Contact the local bar association in your county for information about Volunteer Lawyer Program clinics.
- ◆ The Moderate Means Program provides low-cost attorneys to those of limited financial means. <https://www.wsba.org/for-the-public/find-legal-help>
- ◆ Court forms and instructions can be downloaded at [www.courts.wa.gov/forms/](http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms/).
- ◆ To download a complete copy of the Marriage Family Law Handbook, visit the Washington Courts Web site at <http://www.courts.wa.gov/>, under Resources.
- ◆ Local Courthouse Facilitators can assist with paperwork and information.



The Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was established by the 1957 Legislature to “advance the efficient and effective operation of the Washington judicial system.” The agency operates under the direction and supervision of the Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court, pursuant to Chapter 2.56 RCW.

For more information, visit [www.courts.wa.gov](http://www.courts.wa.gov)

# Marriage Family Law Handbook 2019

## Summary

## Marriage and Divorce in Washington State



# 2019 Marriage Family Law Handbook Summary



The Family Law Handbook was developed to help you understand family law in Washington State.

The Legislature initially directed the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to create a Family Law Handbook for individuals getting a marriage license. The Legislature later directed county clerks to distribute the Handbook to individuals filing, or responding to, an action to dissolve their marriage. This procedure is commonly called a divorce.

The Handbook may help you understand the rights and responsibilities spouses have to each other and any children during and after marriage.

## Chapters in the Handbook Include:

- ◆ Marriage in Washington State
- ◆ Prenuptial Agreements
- ◆ Ending a Marriage
- ◆ Property Rights: Dividing Assets and Debt
- ◆ Spousal Maintenance (Alimony)
- ◆ The Effects of Divorce on Children
- ◆ Shared Parenting for Divorcing Parents
- ◆ Presumptions of Parentage and Marriage
- ◆ Relocation of Children
- ◆ Child Support
- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Child Abuse and Neglect
- ◆ Domestic Partnerships
- ◆ Community Resources

**To download a complete copy of the Marriage Family Law Handbook, visit the Washington Courts Web site at <http://www.courts.wa.gov/>, under Resources.**

## Community Resources and Helpful Web Sites

- ◆ National Healthy Marriage Resource Center at [www.healthymarriageinfo.org](http://www.healthymarriageinfo.org).
- ◆ Community Health Departments and Districts. See [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov) or call the health department or district listed in your local directory.
- ◆ The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), see [www.dshs.wa.gov](http://www.dshs.wa.gov) or call your local DSHS Community Services Office.
- ◆ The Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), see [www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov).
- ◆ The Washington State 24-hour Domestic Violence hotline at 1-800-562-6025, or National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).
- ◆ Pre-marital and couples counseling.
- ◆ Couples support groups sponsored by community centers or religious organizations.