

Legal Resources

- ◆ For self-help information and packets on a variety of legal topics visit 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, 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, www.wsba.org/for-the-public/find-legal-help.
- ◆ Court forms and instructions can be downloaded at www.courts.wa.gov/forms/.
- ◆ To download a complete copy of the Marriage Family Law Handbook, visit the Washington Courts Web site at www.courts.wa.gov, under Resources.
- ◆ Local Courthouse Facilitators can assist with paperwork and information.



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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

Domestic Partnership Family Law Handbook 2019

Summary



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2019 Domestic Partnership 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 AOC asked that the Secretary of State provide this summary of the Domestic Partnership Family Law Handbook to individuals filing a Declaration of State-Registered Domestic Partnership. The Handbook is also distributed to individuals filing, or responding to, an action to dissolve their domestic partnership.

While the Handbook is not designed to give legal advice, it will provide general information about the partnership contract and laws about dissolution of partnerships in Washington State.

Chapters in the Handbook Include:

- ◆ Washington State-Registered Domestic Partnerships
- ◆ Pre-Partnership Agreements
- ◆ Ending a Domestic Partnership
- ◆ Property Rights: Dividing Assets and Debt
- ◆ Maintenance (Alimony)
- ◆ The Effects of Dissolving a Domestic Partnership on Children
- ◆ Shared Parenting for Parents Dissolving Their Partnership
- ◆ Relocation of Children
- ◆ Child Support
- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Child Abuse and Neglect
- ◆ Community Resources

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

Community Resources and Helpful Web Sites:

- ◆ Pre-partnership and couples counseling.
- ◆ Community Health Departments and Districts. See www.doh.wa.gov or call the health department or district listed in your local directory.
- ◆ Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). See www.dshs.wa.gov or call your local DSHS Community Services Office.
- ◆ Legal Voice
Information about domestic partnerships, rights, and responsibilities may be found at Legal Voice, www.legalvoice.org/washingtons-domestic-partnership-law.
- ◆ The Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), see 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).