

FAMILY LAW STAGES

AN INFOGRAPHIC

A Step-by-Step Guide Brought to You by Hocker & Associates LLC



Bringing your case to family court can be a **complex process**. Here's what you need to know:

STEP 1 FILE PETITION OR MOTION



One party must **FILE A DOCUMENT** with the court requesting relief or intervention.

SERVICE UPON OTHER PARTY STEP 2

The other person must be **SERVED OR PROVIDED WITH THE PAPERWORK** before the motion or petition can proceed in court.



STEP 3 PROVISIONAL HEARING



DIVORCE AND CUSTODY CASES CAN TAKE MONTHS TO RESOLVE.

To establish custody, visitation, child support and access to shared property in the interim, the court will schedule a brief **provisional hearing WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE REQUEST.**

DISCOVERY STEP 4

DISCOVERY is the process of formal obtaining information from the other party and third parties such as banks, counselors and employers. Formal discovery is needed for the information to be usable during a hearing.



INTERROGATORIES: Written questions to be answered.



REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION: Legal requests to produce documents, both physical and electronic, that pertain to the matter of the lawsuit.



REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION: Statements that the party must either "admit" or "deny."



DEPOSITIONS: Oral questions that must be answered, under oath, before a court reporter.

STEP 5 MEDIATION

MEDIATION is a formal process to resolve the issues with the help of a neutral attorney who is trained as a mediator.

MEDIATORS CAN BE SELECTED IN TWO WAYS:

OR

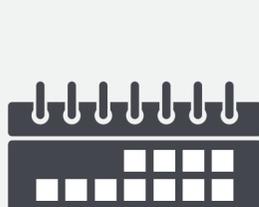
The parties **mutually agree** on a mediator.

The judge provides a **list of three mediators** and each party strikes one; the **remaining one** becomes the mediator.

Parties sit in **separate rooms** while the mediator goes **BACK AND FORTH** to each party, working toward a resolution.

THE PARTIES REMAIN IN CONTROL OF THE OUTCOME at this stage. The mediator can recommend a resolution, but cannot make decisions for them. In most cases, **the court will require mediation** before scheduling a final hearing.

FINAL HEARING STEP 6



After mediation, **A HEARING DATE WILL BE SCHEDULED.** Both parties present evidence and testimony. The court's ruling can take 30-60 days after the hearing to arrive. The judge's decision at a hearing is **BINDING ON BOTH PARTIES.**

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS ON YOUR OWN. **HOCKER & ASSOCIATES** CAN GUIDE YOU AND HELP YOU GET THE RESULTS YOU NEED.

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION:

(877) 626-7725

