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# FAMILY COURT VOCABULARY

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- **ABANDONMENT**  
*A parent's or custodian's act of leaving a child without adequate care, supervision, support, or parental contact for an excessive period of time. Also, the desertion of one spouse by the other with the intent to terminate the marriage relationship.*
  
- **ALIMONY**  
*Older term for money to be paid from one spouse to the other for support, either during or at the conclusion of the dissolution of a marriage; the term is largely obsolete and has been replaced by maintenance.*
  
- **ARREARAGES**  
*Unpaid child support payments for a past period owed by the non-custodial parent.*
  
- **ATTORNEY OF RECORD**  
*An attorney who has filed a notice of appearance with court.*
  
- **BATTERED CHILD SYNDROME (B.C.S.)**  
*Physical condition of a child indicating that external or internal injuries result from acts committed by a parent or custodian.*
  
- **BATTERY**  
*An offensive touching or use of force on a person without the person's consent.*
  
- **BATTERY, SPOUSAL**  
*An offensive touching or use of force on one's spouse without the spouse's consent.*
  
- **BENCH WARRANT**  
*A court order for a person's arrest so he/she can be brought to court.*
  
- **CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**
  1. **Adoption**  
*Legal process by which a child's legal rights and duties toward natural parents are terminated and similar rights and duties towards adoptive parents are substituted.*
  2. Affidavit to Dissolve TPO
  3. Affidavit to Obtain TPO
  4. Annulment Hearing
  5. **Arrearages**  
*Unpaid child support payments for a past period owed by the non-custodial parent*
  6. Child Interview
  7. Contempt Show Cause
  8. Cooperative Parenting Class
  9. Custody Evaluation
  10. Defendant's Amended Opposition and Countermotion
  11. Defendant's Opposition and Countermotion for Sanctions and Attorney's fees
  12. Defendant's Opposition and Countermotion to Confirm Custody
  13. Drug Test Results
  14. Emergency Motion for Change in the Visitation Schedule
  15. Emergency Motion to Modify Child Custody and Other Related Relief

## **FAMILY COURT VOCABULARY**

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16. Evidentiary Hearing
17. Genetic Test Review
18. Hearing for Change of Name
19. Hearing for Child Custody
20. Hearing for Custody
21. Hearing to Extend TPO
22. Issue of Exemption
23. Mandatory Calendar Call
24. Mediation
25. Motion for an Order to Show Cause for Contempt
26. Motion for Clarification of the Court's Order
27. Motion for Contempt
28. Motion for Determination of Community Property Interest on Sale
29. Motion for Exclusive Possession
30. Motion for Fees and Allowances
31. Motion for Joint Legal Custody
32. Motion for Reconsideration Regarding Visitation
33. Motion for Sole Legal and Sole Physical Custody of Minor Child
34. Motion for Temporary Order for Child Custody
35. Motion for Temporary Primary Physical Custody of the Subject
36. Motion to Continue Trial
37. Motion to Establish Jurisdiction
38. Motion to Modify Child Custody and Child Support, Visitation
39. Motion to Reduce Child Support
40. Motion to Reduce Lien to Judgment
41. Motion to Relocate
42. Motion to Reschedule Hearing on Motion Establishing Paternity
43. Motion to Set Aside Divorce Decree
44. Motion to Set Aside Last Order Filed on
45. Motion to Strike Peremptory Challenge of Judge
46. Motion to Withdraw as Counsel
47. Non-Jury Trial
48. Notice for Hearing on Applicants Motion and Affidavit to Dissolve TPO
49. Notice of Hearing
50. Notice of Motion for Perfection of Attorney's Lien
51. Objection to Ruling
52. Order for Expedited Hearing on Adverse Party's Motion
53. Order Shortening Time on Applicant's Motion
54. Outsource Custody Evaluation
55. Plaintiff's Motion for Change of Venue
56. Plaintiff's Objection to Report of the Special Master
57. Plaintiff's Opposition and Countermotion for Termination of Spousal Support
58. Plaintiff's Opposition and Countermotion to Modify Child Support
59. Plaintiff's Opposition and Countermotion to Modify Joint Physical Custody
60. Pretrial Conference
61. Remaining Issues
62. Remand from Family Court
63. Request to Quash Bench Warrant
64. Respondent's Request
65. Review and Adjustment
66. Review/In Custody

# FAMILY COURT VOCABULARY

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- 67. Separate Maintenance Hearing
- 68. Status Check
- 69. Uncontested Divorce Hearing
- 70. Visitation Resolution

- CASE MANAGER  
*The person who works on a child support case at the District Attorney's Office of the Family Support Division.*
- CHILD SUPPORT  
*Money to be paid by one spouse by another for the support of their children.*
- COHABITATION  
*Term used to describe living or residing together, usually in reference to unmarried persons.*
- COMMUNITY PROPERTY  
*Property acquired during marriage and owned by both husband and wife.*
- CUSTODIAN  
*Person with legal custody of a child or with whom a child lives; this person is not necessarily the child's parent.*
- CUSTODY(legal or physical)  
*In domestic cases, the legal right to take control over and care of a child. In criminal cases, the defendant is said **to be in custody** if he is detained on authority or otherwise restrained, so that he is not free to come and go at will. See also **parenting plan**.*
- DECLARATION OF INVALIDITY  
*A declaration by the court that a marriage is invalid or that no legal marriage existed. In some states called an **annulment**.*
- DECREE  
*The final and formal document upon dissolution of marriage, specifying the rights and obligations of the former spouses. Analogous to a judgment in other cases.*
- DISSOLUTION  
*The act of legally dissolving a marriage or other legal status; in the context of marriage, formerly called divorce.*
- DIVORCE  
*An older term for dissolution (above).*
- EMANCIPATION  
*Removing a child from a support order because he/she is no longer considered a minor. In Nevada, this occurs at age 18, unless still in high school or age 19, whichever occurs first.*
- ENFORCEMENT  
*Obtaining payment of child support or medical support obligation.*

# FAMILY COURT VOCABULARY

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- ESTABLISHMENT  
*Initiating a legal action to obtain a child support obligation.*
- GENETIC TESTING  
***GENETIC TESTING** = Analysis of DNA of the mother, child and alleged father to help prove or disprove that a particular man fathered a particular child.*
- GUARDIAN  
*A person appointed to take care of the person or property of another.*
- GUARDIAN AD LITEM  
*A person appointed by the court to look after interests of a minor or incapacitated person during the course of litigation.*
- GUARDIANSHIP  
*The office, duty or authority of a guardian; also the area of the law pertaining to guardian and protected person.*
- INCAPACITATED  
*The terms incapacitated person, incapacitated, and mentally incapacitated refer to any person who for reasons other than being a minor, is unable to receive and evaluate information or make or communicate decisions to such an extent that the person lacks the ability to meet essential requirements for physical health, safety or self-care without appropriate assistance.*
- LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP  
*The instrument by which a person (the guardian) is empowered to take charge of the person or property of a minor or incapacitated person, similar in effect to **letters of conservatorship** (above).*
- LOCATE  
*The process used to determine the location of a non-custodial parent.*
- MAINTENANCE  
*Money to be paid by one spouse to another for support, either during or at the conclusion of the dissolution of a marriage. Called **alimony** in some states.*
- MODIFICATION  
*The ability to adjust the current child support obligation based on the income of the non-custodial parent. Modification does not include non-modifiable terms which could include spousal support and age of emancipation.*
- NEXT FRIEND  
*A person acting for the benefit of a child or adult, without being formally appointed as a guardian.*
- NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT  
*The parent who does not live with or have custody of a child but does have a responsibility for financial support of that child.*

# FAMILY COURT VOCABULARY

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- NOTICE OF HEARING  
*A legal document served on the opposing parties giving them notice of a court hearing.*
- OBLIGEE/PAYEE  
*The person to whom child support is owed.*
- OBLIGOR/PAYOR  
*The person who owes child support.*
- PARENTAGE  
*Legal determination of fatherhood.*
- PARENTAGE ACTION  
*See **paternity action**.*
- PATERNITY ACTION  
*Action in which a man is alleged to be the father of the child and that he has a duty to support the child; also called a **filiation action**; also called a **parentage action**.*
- PETITION  
*Written application asking the court to grant a specified remedy; used in place of a complaint in certain actions, such as marriage dissolutions.*
- PETITIONER  
*One who files a petition (above). The party that opens a case.*
- PROPOSED PROTECTED MINOR  
*Any minor for whom proceedings for the appointment of a guardian have been initiated.*
- PROTECTED MINOR  
*Any minor for whom a guardian has been appointed.*
- PROPOSED PROTECTED PERSON  
*Any person for whom proceedings for the appointment of a guardian have been initiated.*
- PROTECTED PERSON  
*Any person for whom a guardian has been appointed.*
- PUTATIVE FATHER  
*The alleged or reputed father of an illegitimate child.*
- RESPONDENT  
*The party that is responding to an action.*
- QUASHING A BENCH WARRANT  
**BENCH WARRANT** = *A court order which eliminates a bench warrant.*
- STIPULATION  
*Out of court order to pay child support and/or to provide medical insurance as required.*

## **FAMILY COURT VOCABULARY**

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- SUPPORT  
*See child support.*
- UN-REIMBURSED MEDICAL  
*Medical costs which are not covered by insurance co-pays or deductibles.*
- WARD  
*A person, typically a child placed under the care of a guardian.*