

The ABCs of California Divorce

CALIFORNIA IS A “NO-FAULT” DIVORCE STATE

In California, you do not have to cite a reason for seeking a divorce like you can be required to do in other states, such as domestic violence or adultery. There are only 2 bases for obtaining a divorce in California: “Irreconcilable Differences” or “Incurable Insanity.” While you may in fact believe that your spouse suffers from the latter, the reality is that the overwhelming majority of divorce cases end due to irreconcilable differences.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CALIFORNIA DIVORCES & LEGAL SEPARATION

To file for divorce in California, you must have been a resident of California for 6 months and of the county in which you are filing the divorce petition for 3 months immediately prior to the filing.

There are no residency requirements for filing for Legal Separation in California. Therefore, for persons who cannot meet the residency requirements for divorce, they can first file for Legal Separation and later amend their Petition into a divorce proceeding once they have met the residency requirements. In situations where it is necessary to obtain custody, support and other orders from the court as quickly as possible, filing for Legal Separation first and later changing the proceeding into one for divorce may make sense.

HOW PROPERTY IS DIVIDED IN A CALIFORNIA DIVORCE

Under California law, most property and debts of the marriage will generally be characterized as either community property or separate property.

What is Community Property? Community Property is all real property (i.e. real estate) or personal property that you and your spouse acquired through labor or skill during the marriage (i.e. from date of marriage to date of separation). Community Property means that each spouse has a one-half interest in such property, regardless of whether property is in only one of the spouses' names or whether only one of the parties worked during the marriage.

In addition, debts incurred during the marriage are generally considered community obligations, even if the debt is in only one of the spouse's names. There are some exceptions to this rule, such as student loans, which are considered the separate property debt of the spouse who incurred such student loans because they also get the benefit of the education obtained as a result of such student loans.

Pursuant to California law, community property assets and debts are generally divided equally between the parties. However, the parties can agree to a division of property that favors one spouse over the other.

It is highly advised that any marital debts be paid off from the proceeds of the property division so that both parties can start over with a "clean slate" and also so that there is no risk that the other party may default in paying a debt that they agreed to do in the divorce. However, this is not always an option in situations where the parties have more marital debts and obligations than assets.

What is Separate Property? Separate Property is property and debt acquired prior to marriage, property acquired and income earned after date of separation, and any gifts or inheritances received before, during or after marriage. Such property is not divided in the divorce because separate property is not marital property.

In addition, Family Code Section 2640 entitles the reimbursement of a spouse's separate property contribution of the down payment made on a community property home and any improvements made to such community property home, if you can prove such payments with sufficient documentation.

Unfortunately, property division can become complicated in situations where separate property has become commingled (i.e. mixed) with community property, such as bank accounts. Moreover, there can be situations where one spouse contends that an asset is their separate property asset while the other claims that there was a "transmutation" of the character of the property from separate into community property. Such determinations can be complicated and you are best advised to seek legal counsel to deal with those issues.

CHILD CUSTODY IN CALIFORNIA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Child Custody in California consists of two types of custody: legal custody and physical custody.

What is Legal Custody? Legal Custody refers to who gets to make the decisions concerning the health, education and welfare of the child.

“Sole Legal Custody” means that one parent shall have the right and responsibility to make the decisions related to the health, education and welfare of the child (Family Code Section 3006).

“Joint Legal Custody” means that both parents share the right and responsibility to make the decisions concerning the health, education and welfare of the child (Family Code Section 3003). In making an order for custody concerning both parents, the court may grant joint legal custody without granting joint physical custody (Family Code Section 3085).

Family Code Section 3003 does not spell out any details of exactly what “Joint Legal Custody” entails, and so it is highly advisable that any court orders reached in your case include a detailed listing of the specific rights and responsibility of both parties as they pertain to joint legal custody. These specified rights and responsibility should include:

1. The parents must confer in making decisions on the following matters:
 - a. Enrollment in or leaving a particular private or public school or daycare center.
 - b. Participation in particular religious activities or institutions.
 - c. Beginning or ending of psychiatric, psychological, or other mental health counseling or therapy.
 - d. Selection of a doctor, dentist, or other health professional (except in emergency situations).
 - e. Participation in extracurricular activities.
 - f. Out-of-country or out-of-state travel.

2. The parent who has the physical care of the children at any given time shall have the routine decision-making rights and responsibilities during those periods of time; however, all major decisions pertaining to health, education and daycare shall be made jointly by the parents. No prior consultation is required between the parents regarding emergency medical or dental treatment, routine checkups, or minor illness. However, the other parent shall be notified immediately in the case of an emergency. A sharing of routine health information is encouraged.

3. In the event that controversy arises regarding major decisions, both parents shall first consult together and if no resolution, meet and confer with an expert in the field related to the dispute, e.g. the child's doctor, teacher, counselor, etc. If the consultation does not resolve the dispute, the parents shall return together to Mediation at the courthouse in an attempt to reach an agreement. Finally, if the dispute continues, it shall be submitted to the Court for a decision, and until then, the existing orders shall remain in effect.
4. Neither parent shall enroll the children in activities that require a commitment from the other parent or interfere with a previously agreed upon or Court-ordered schedule without mutual approval. Parents are encouraged to attend their children's activities. Parents are responsible for keeping themselves advised and for advising each other of all school, athletic, and social events in which the children participate.
5. Pursuant to Family Law Code § 3025, both parents shall have the same access to psychological, medical, dental and school records pertaining to their children and shall be permitted independently to consult with any and all concerned professionals. The names of both parents shall be listed on school and extracurricular cards to be contacted in case of emergency.
6. Each parent shall notify the other of the name, address, and telephone number of each health practitioner who examines or treats the children; such notification to be made within one (1) day of the commencement of the first such treatment or examination.
7. Neither parent shall submit the children to any psychological /psychiatric testing or evaluation or to any extended course of medical, dental, orthodontic, psychiatric or psychological treatment/counseling without first obtaining the consent of the other parent.
8. Both parents are required to administer any prescribed medications for the children.
9. Each parent shall be entitled to reasonable telephone communication with the children at reasonable hours. Each parent shall not interfere with the children's right to privacy during such telephone conversations.
10. Neither party shall change the surname of the children or cause the surnames to be changed on medical, dental, school, DMV records or other legal documents without the consent of the other parent or order of the Court.

11. Either party may travel out of the State of California with the minor children.
12. Should either parent move from their current residence, they shall advise the other parent of their new address and telephone numbers within 2 days prior to the move.

What Does Physical Custody Mean? Physical Custody is much like it sounds, i.e. which parent has the child when and for how long. California law recognizes two types of physical custody:

“Joint Physical Custody” means that each of the parents shall have significant periods of physical custody. Joint physical custody shall be shared in such a way so as to assure a child of “frequent and continuing contact” with both parents (Family Code Section 3004). In making an order for joint physical custody, the court may specify one parent as the primary caretaker of the child and one home as the primary home of the child for the purpose of determining eligibility for public assistance (Family Code Section 3086).

“Sole Physical Custody” means that a child shall reside with and be under the supervision of one parent, subject to the power of the court to order visitation with the other parent (Family Code Section 3007).

“Joint Custody” means both joint physical and joint legal custody (Family Code Section 3002).

How To Obtain Temporary Custody Orders While Divorce Case Is Pending

- Order to Show Cause:

After the initial divorce paperwork has been filed with the court, either spouse may file for an “Order to Show Cause” hearing with the court requesting a hearing to decide temporary orders for child custody, visitation, child support, spousal support, and other orders while the divorce is pending. Other orders can involve temporary use of marital property, restraining orders and orders that one party pay the other party’s attorney fees and costs.

- Mediation:

Whenever an Order to Show Cause (OSC) hearing addressing child custody and visitation issues are filed, the Court will order that the parties attend mediation at no cost through the court’s mediation department prior to the Order to Show Cause hearing date.

Although the law requires that the parents participate in mediation, there is no requirement that they reach an agreement.

Domestic Violence and Child Custody in California (What You Need To Know As A Parent If You Were The Victim or Perpetrator of Domestic Violence)

The Court will consider your case to be a “domestic violence case” if the Court finds that a parent committed or was convicted of domestic violence against the other parent in the last 5 years.

Pursuant to Family Code Section 3044, if the Court makes such a finding, there is a legal presumption that the party who perpetuated the domestic violence should not have sole or joint custody of the parties’ children. Such legal presumption can be overcome and custody awarded to the parent who committed the domestic violence if it is in the best interests of the child, the perpetrator has completed a 52-week batterer’s program, not committed any other domestic violence, and has complied with any other orders of the Court.

The text of Family Code section 3044 details the specific factors that the Court must follow in a domestic violence case, as follows:

(a) Upon a finding by the court that a party seeking custody of a child has perpetrated domestic violence against the other party seeking custody of the child or against the child or the child's siblings within the previous five years, there is a rebuttable presumption that an award of sole or joint physical or legal custody of a child to a person who has perpetrated domestic violence is detrimental to the best interest of the child, pursuant to Section 3011. This presumption may only be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) In determining whether the presumption set forth in subdivision (a) has been overcome, the court shall consider all of the following factors:

(1) Whether the perpetrator of domestic violence has demonstrated that giving sole or joint physical or legal custody of a child to the perpetrator is in the best interest of the child. In determining the best interest of the child, the preference for frequent and continuing contact with both parents, as set forth in subdivision (b) of Section 3020, or with the noncustodial parent, as set forth in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 3040, may not be used to rebut the presumption, in whole or in part.

- (2) Whether the perpetrator has successfully completed a batterer's treatment program that meets the criteria outlined in subdivision (c) of Section 1203.097 of the Penal Code.
- (3) Whether the perpetrator has successfully completed a program of alcohol or drug abuse counseling if the court determines that counseling is appropriate.
- (4) Whether the perpetrator has successfully completed a parenting class if the court determines the class to be appropriate.
- (5) Whether the perpetrator is on probation or parole, and whether he or she has complied with the terms and conditions of probation or parole.
- (6) Whether the perpetrator is restrained by a protective order or restraining order, and whether he or she has complied with its terms and conditions.
- (7) Whether the perpetrator of domestic violence has committed any further acts of domestic violence. For purposes of this section, a person has "perpetrated domestic violence" when he or she is found by the court to have intentionally or recklessly caused or attempted to cause bodily injury, or sexual assault, or to have placed a person in reasonable apprehension of imminent serious bodily injury to that person or to another, or to have engaged in any behavior involving, but not limited to, threatening, striking, harassing, destroying personal property or disturbing the peace of another, for which a court may issue an ex parte order pursuant to Section 6320 to protect the other party seeking custody of the child or to protect the child and the child's siblings.

THE 5 THINGS YOU MUST UNDERSTAND ABOUT SPOUSAL SUPPORT IN A CALIFORNIA DIVORCE!

1. California Differentiates Between Short-Term vs. Long-Term Marriages

California law makes a distinction between “short-term” and “long-term” marriages in determining the duration of spousal support payments and the jurisdiction of the court to award spousal support.

2. A Short-Term Marriage Is One Less Than 10 Years In Duration.

For marriages less than 10 years in duration, California law and precedent maintains that the spouse obligated to pay spousal support is obligated to do so for one-half the length of the actual marriage.

3. A Long-Term Marriage Is 10 Years Or More.

For a long-term marriage, the court generally has continuing jurisdiction over the issue of spousal support and the longer the marriage, generally the prospect of continuing spousal support for many years to come.

So what does this mean? It means that spousal support for a short-term marriage is generally for a fixed period of time. For a marriage over 10 years in duration, it means that spousal support is not necessarily fixed and can be ongoing, and the longer the marriage, the more that spousal support could be permanent.

4. Temporary Spousal Support vs. Permanent Spousal Support

“Temporary Spousal Support” (also known as “Pendite Lite” spousal support) generally is spousal support awarded while a divorce is pending and not yet finalized. Such temporary spousal support is generally calculated using the Dissomaster support calculator, much like child support in California is determined.

“Permanent Spousal Support” is spousal support beyond the conclusion of a California divorce and is generally determined by the court at trial. Such a determination is substantially more complicated than determining temporary spousal support. To determine the amount of long-term spousal support, the Court must consider such factors as the standard of living during the marriage, the length of the marriage, the needs of the parties, the age, health, earning capacity and job histories of both parties. In fact, Family Code section 4320 states the specific factors that the Court has to consider, as follows:

- a. The extent to which each party’s earning capacity is sufficient to maintain the standard of living established during the marriage;

- b. The contributions of the supported party to the paying party's education, training, career position, or professional license;
- c. The ability of the supporting party to pay spousal support;
- d. The needs of each party based on the standard of living established during the marriage;
- e. The obligations and asset, including separate property, of each party;
- f. The duration of the marriage;
- g. The ability of the supported party to engage in gainful employment without interfering with the interests of dependent children;
- h. The age and health of the parties;
- i. Any history of domestic violence between the parties;
- j. The immediate and specific tax consequences to each party;
- k. The balance of the hardships to each party;
- l. The goal that the supported party become self-supporting within a reasonable period of time (usually one-half the length of the marriage)
- m. Any criminal conviction of an abusive spouse
- n. Any other factors the court deems just and equitable.

In situations where neither party needs spousal support at the moment, the Court can reserve jurisdiction to order spousal support in the future if there were any change of circumstances, such as serious illness, disability, or loss of employment.

5. Spousal Support Is Tax-Deductible. Spousal support is generally considered under state and Federal law to be tax-deductible to the spouse who is paying such support, and is reportable income to the spouse who receives such income.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT IN CALIFORNIA

How Is Child Support In California Calculated? Child support is generally determined by using statutory formulas that are based on parents' income and other circumstances. But there may be reasons to deviate from the standard child support guidelines. To determine "extra" child support contributions, such as which parent will pay for college tuition or who will pay for braces or summer camp, divorcing or separating parents can negotiate and agree to their own creative solutions.

Child support can also include expenses for the special needs of a child, such as tutors or other services, as well as the transportation costs for visitation of a parent.

Finally, the Court generally orders that both parents keep their child medically insured with medical insurance if it is available at no cost or at reasonable cost to both parents.

How Long Is Child Support Paid? Child Support in California is generally paid until the minor child reaches the age of 18, or age 19 if they are still a full-time high school student at age 18, unless the minor child dies or becomes emancipated prior to becoming an adult.

What About Childcare Expenses and Unreimbursed Medical Expenses? In addition to the basic monthly child support, the court will generally also order that the parents equally share the costs of childcare expenses necessary for the custodial parent or both parents to work, as well as any medical, dental, and vision expenses for the minor child not covered or reimbursed by medical/dental/vision insurance.

Department of Child Support Services Cases: Orange County has a Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) governmental agency designed to either establish, enforce, or modify child support orders.

There are 2 types of cases opened by DCSS: Public assistance (i.e. Welfare) and Non-Public Assistance. If you receive public assistance, you have automatically assigned to DCSS or the State of California your right to receive some or all of your current and past-due child support. In other words, you may be receiving Public Assistance but the agency from whom you are receiving such assistance will go after the supporting parent to get reimbursement for such assistance.

For Non-Public Assistance, you can open up a DCSS case to establish a child support order (generally in situations where non-marital parents are involved) or to enforce a child support order made in a divorce or legal separation case. The benefit of opening a DCSS case to enforce a child support order is that DCSS is part of a statewide and sister-state system of support enforcement and DCSS has powers of enforcement that include suspension of the supporting parent's driver's license and professional licenses, interception of state income tax refunds, etc., at no cost to you. Although DCSS deals with huge numbers of cases, the circumstances of your case may be such that opening a

DCSS case is advisable once your attorney has established a child support order against the other parent.

Is Child Support Tax-Deductible? Child support is generally considered under state and Federal law to NOT be tax-deductible to the spouse who is paying such support, and so the spouse receiving such support does not have to report such support as income on his or her tax returns.

It is important to know that the custodial parent is entitled to claim the tax dependency exemption for children unless waived. Generally, state and Federal law states that the parent who has at least 51% custodial timeshare has the right to claim the minor children as dependency tax exemptions on their income tax returns.

However, that spouse can waive such right and give the noncustodial parent the right to claim the children as exemptions, but it is advisable to have such waiver in written form. In situations where the non-custodial parent earns a much higher-income, giving the child tax exemption to that parent who will benefit much more by such exemptions may be a good faith gesture, but it is advisable to seek more support than what the non-custodial parent would have been liable to pay in exchange.

WHEN IS MY DIVORCE OFFICIALLY DONE?

A divorce in California cannot be ordered by the Court until at least 6 months after the other spouse was served with the initial Summons and Petition, i.e. a “cooling off” period that cannot be shortened or waived. Moreover, nothing will happen after those 6 months in ending your marriage unless you and your spouse enter into a written settlement as part of a Judgment or otherwise go to trial. In other words, a divorce can only be completed with either an agreed-upon judgment or a court ruling at trial. Until that time, neither party can legally remarry.

In situations where the parties have not resolved all issues or one or both parties seek to be divorced in order to remarry, a party can seek a “bifurcation” of marital status, wherein the court terminates your status as a married couple but reserves jurisdiction over all other issues of the marriage until further agreement can be reached or the case goes to trial.

ORANGE COUNTY FAMILY & LEGAL RESOURCES

ORANGE COUNTY ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS:

1. Al-Anon/Alateen (714) 748-1113
(support services for families with an alcoholic family member)
2. Health Care Agency Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services
-Anaheim (drug and/or alcohol abuse only) (714) 934-4669
-Aliso Viejo (mental illness and substance abuse) (949) 643-6930
-Costa Mesa (mental illness and substance abuse) (714) 850-8431
-Fullerton (mental illness and substance abuse) (714) 447-7099
-Santa Ana (mental illness and substance abuse) (714) 480-6660
-Westminster (mental illness and substance abuse) (714) 896-7574
3. Alcoholics Anonymous
-North County (714) 556-4555
-South County (949) 582-2697
4. Cocaine Anonymous (referrals for meetings and counseling) (949) 650-1011
5. La Familia Alcohol/Drug Service Center
-Casa Elena (Anaheim)-Women Only (714) 772-5580
-Unidos (Garden Grove)-Men Only (714) 531-4624
6. Narcotics Anonymous (24 Hour Hotline) (714) 776-8581
7. Orange County Drug & Alcohol Services (714) 834-3840
8. Mariposa Women's Center (714) 547-6494
9. Rescue Mission (714) 258-4450
10. Drug Testing
-UCI Medical Center (714) 456-5831
-Emergi Center Family Care (714) 841-2500
-Inland Valley Recovery Center (909) 699-7626
-Insight Counseling Center (909) 929-0203
-South Coast Family Medi-Center (714) 643-0500
-UniLab (locations throughout OC and So. Cal.) (800) 597-1700
11. Hair Follicle Drug Testing
-LABCO (714) 534-5078

-Therapeutic Health Services (714) 835-1700

ORANGE COUNTY LEGAL RESOURCES:

1. Domestic Violence Assistance Program (714) 935-7956
OC Superior Court-Lamoreaux Justice Center (714) 973-0134
341 The City Drive, 7th Floor
Orange, California 92868
2. Family Law Facilitator (714) 935-8304
OC Superior Court-Lamoreaux Justice Center
341 The City Drive, Room C-611 (6th Floor)
Orange, California 92868
[assistance for unrepresented family law parties
regarding child support issues]
3. Family Court Services & Mediation (714) 935-6550
OC Superior Court-Lamoreaux Justice Center
341 The City Drive, 5th Floor
Orange, California 92868
4. Legal Aid Society (714) 571-5200
2101 North Tustin Avenue (800) 834-5001
Santa Ana, California 92705
www.legal-aid.com
5. Orange County Department of (714) 541-7600
Child Support Services (DCSS) (888) 594-7600
1055 Main Street, 1st Floor
Santa Ana, California 92701
www.css.ocgov.com
6. Orange County Public Law Library (714) 834-3397
515 North Flower
Santa Ana, California 92701
www.oc.ca.gov/lawlib
7. Orange County Superior Court
www.occourts.org
8. Orange County Bar Association (949) 440-6700
P.O. Box 17777
Irvine, California 92623
9. Marriage, Birth & Death Certificates (714) 834-3005

SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAMS:

In cases where the Family Law Court has ordered supervised visitation of the minor child with one of the parents on a temporary basis and the parties cannot mutually agree on a family member, friend or other third party to provide such supervision, the use of a professional supervisor is often necessary to facilitate the supervised visitation.

Such professional supervisors require fees for such service, which can sometimes be based on the parent's income level. The following are some respected, non-profit agencies that provide supervised visitation services in Orange County and have supervisors that are bilingual in Spanish and other languages:

1. F.A.C.E.S., Inc. (2 Locations) (714) 879-9616
(Family Assessment and Educational Services)

1966 E. Chapman, Suite G
Fullerton, California 92831

1651 East 4th Street, Suite 128
Santa Ana, California 92701
2. Kids First Visitation Services (888) 451-5437
www.kidsfirstsvs.com

Post Office Box 12123
Newport Beach, California 92658
3. La Familia (2 Locations) (714) 479-0120

1905 North College Street
Santa Ana, California 92706

32238 Paso Adelanto, Suite E
San Juan Capistrano, California 92675
4. Kidz Konnection, Inc. (714) 510-6399
www.kidzkonnection.org

5761 East La Palma Avenue #269
Anaheim, California 92807

ORANGE COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES:

The Orange County Family Court routinely refers parties with children that are going through separation or divorce to family counseling programs to help ease the transition and stress of such families, including the following reputable programs:

1. F.A.C.E.S., Inc. (3 Locations)

1966 East Chapman Avenue, Suite G (714) 879-9616
Fullerton, California 92831

1651 East 4th Street, Suite 128 (714) 547-7345
Santa Ana, California 92701

26081 Getty Drive (949) 582-7500
Laguna Niguel, California 92677

- Services include the following:
- Individual, Child & Family Counseling
 - Marital Counseling
 - Anger Management Classes
 - Co-Parenting Classes and Counseling
 - Parenting Classes
 - Grandparents Support Group
 - Teen Anger Management
 - Monitored Visitations

2. Solutions for Families (2 Locations)
(Co-Parenting Program)

Offers co-parenting classes that teach communication skills and problem-solving techniques for building and maintaining a cooperative co-parenting relationship between parents.

12340 Seal Beach Boulevard, Suite B140 (888) 583-5437
Seal Beach, California 92868
www.SolutionsForFamiliesOC.com

321 North Rampart Street, Suite 10 (714) 939-7770
Orange, California 92868
www.familysoforange.com

3. KIDS FIRST (714) 596-5040

18685-A Main Street #467
Huntington Beach, California 92648

An interactive educational program that offers services to help children and their parents through separation, divorce, and the restructuring of the family.

4. Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center (714) 543-4333
515 Cabrillo Park Drive, Suite 205
Santa Ana, California 92701
ChildAbusePrevention@BrightFutures4Kids.org

Offers a 1-day educational program called “Helping Kids Cope” for parents designed to minimize the effects of divorce on children.

ORANGE COUNTY FAMILY COUNSELING AND ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

1. Pilgrimage Family Therapy Center (3 locations) (714) 573-7557
2. Straight Talk Clinic (Cypress) (714) 828-2000
3. West County Counseling Center (Huntington Beach) (714) 847-3356
4. YMCA Community Counseling Services (714) 442-1000
5. YMCA Center for Family Counseling (Laguna Niguel) (949) 249-8450
6. Adult Mental Health of Orange County (714) 480-6767
7. Child & Youth Services of Orange County (714) 834-5015
8. Jewish Family Service (949) 435-3460
9. Latino Psychological & Social Services (714) 834-0757
10. Lutheran Social Services Counseling (714) 836-9111
11. Mental Health Association of Orange County (714) 547-7559
12. Orange County Youth & Family Services (714) 543-8468
13. Pepperdine Community Counseling Center (949) 223-2570
14. Turning Point Center for Families (714) 547-8111

**ORANGE COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES
(COUNSELING, SHELTERS, AND LEGAL ADVICE):**

1. Domestic Violence Assistance Program
And Temporary Restraining Order Hotline (714) 935-7956
2. Orange County Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 978-3600
3. Family Outreach Center (Fullerton) (714) 449-7535
4. Interval House (2 locations) (714) 891-8121
P.O. Box 3356
Seal Beach, California 90706
5. Laura's House (San Clemente) (949) 498-1511
6. La Familia (Santa Ana) (714) 479-0120
7. Vietnamese Community of Orange County (714) 558-6009
8. Human Options, Inc. (949) 854-3554
P.O. Box 9376
Newport Beach, California 92658
9. Safely On Shore (714) 538-1878
10. Women's Transitional Living Center (714) 992-1931
P.O. Box 6103
Orange, California 92862
11. Eli House (Orange) (714) 300-0600
12. Kathy's House (949) 248-8300
13. Mariposa Women's Center (counseling) (714) 547-6494
14. Options Counseling (counseling) (562) 989-0809
15. Women Helping Women (counseling) (949) 631-2333
16. Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) (949) 440-6700

OCBA offers Domestic Violence legal advice clinics at
3 locations in Orange County. Victims of abuse can schedule

a free 30-minute appointment with a volunteer attorney who can provide advice and legal counsel on issues limited to domestic violence (i.e. divorce, child custody, visitation, support, temporary restraining orders). Appointments are highly recommended.

Locations for legal advice clinics are:

North Orange County:

Family Outreach Center (714) 992-1939
320 West Elm Avenue
Fullerton, California 92683

Central Orange County:

Human Options (714) 435-9992
1500 Adams #206
Costa Mesa, California 92626

South Orange County:

Laura's House Resource Center (949) 240-0363
27126 Paseo Espada #1626
San Juan Capistrano, California 92675

CHILD ABUSE SERVICES

1. Prevent Child Abuse-Orange County (714) 258-2272
1431 Warner Avenue, Suite D
Tustin, California 92780
2. Orangewood Children's Home (714) 935-7584
401 The City Drive
Orange, California 92868
3. Child Abuse Registry (714) 940-1000
P.O. Box 14102
Orange, California 92863

OTHER ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

1. State Disability Claims (800) 480-3287
2. Regional Center of Orange County (714) 796-5100
(disability services)

3. Orange County Social Services information (714) 541-7700
4. Orange County Health Clinic Referrals (800) 564-8448
5. Immunizations for Children (800) 564-8448
6. Medi-Cal Information (714) 541-7700
7. Orange County Housing Authority (714) 480-2700
8. Access California
(Social Services assistance for Muslim, Arab and
Middle Eastern communities) (714) 917-0440
9. Catholic Charities (714) 668-1130
10. Lutheran Social Services (714) 534-6450
11. Saddleback Community Outreach (South County) (949) 380-8144
12. South Orange County Community Services Council (949) 248-8900
13. Southwest Community Center (714) 543-8933
14. Vietnamese Community of Orange County (714) 558-6009
15. Vietnamese League of Orange County (714) 537-7808
16. Senior Services:
-Office on Aging (800) 510-2020
-Irvine Adult Day Health Services (IADHS) (949) 262-1123
www.irvineadhs.org
17. Victim/Witness Assistance Program (714) 834-4350
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92702