

Visitation & Mediation

Judges prefer parents to decide custody and visitation issues for themselves. Parents who cannot agree on custody and visitation issues may be required to participate in mediation at the Family Mediation Center (FMC), the court's mediation program.

FMC is located at the main Family Court campus at 601 N. Pecos Road. FMC's phone number is (702) 455- 4186. If, after mediation, the parents still cannot agree the judge will decide custody and visitation.

Factors the court may consider:

- ◆ Domestic violence
- ◆ Recent criminal activity
- ◆ Substance or alcohol abuse
- ◆ The presence of mental illness
- ◆ Past history of providing for the children

There are two ways to request mediation. The first way is for both parents to sign a Stipulation and Order to Attend Mediation and submit it to the judge. The second way is for one parent to submit a Request and Order for Mediation to the judge. Both of these forms are available at the Self-Help Center and on its website.

A party may request an exemption from mediation if there are issues of child abuse, domestic violence, or if one party lives out of state.

Visitation schedules must be specific so that they can be enforced by the court, the police and others.



Phone:

(702) 455-1500
(702) 455-2500 (Español)
(800) 326-6868 (TT/TTD)

Website:

www.clarkcountycourts.us/shc

Location:

601 N. Pecos Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday

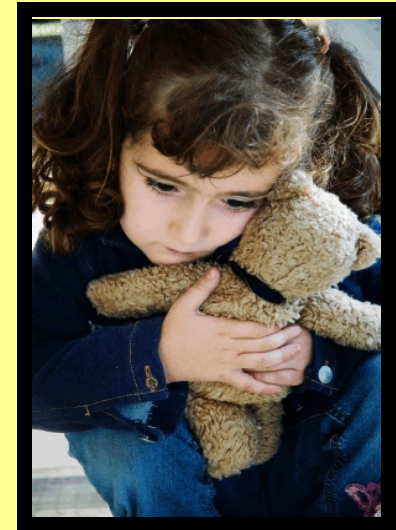
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Customers must arrive at least fifteen minutes prior to closing to receive assistance.

DISCLAIMER: This brochure is intended as a courtesy only. Clark County, the Eighth Judicial District Court, the Self-Help Center, and their employees shall not be liable for errors contained herein or for direct, indirect, special or consequential damages in connection with the furnishing of this material.

Many family law matters involve complex and valuable legal rights. This brochure only includes basic, general information and may not fit all situations. Some rights cannot be adequately protected without the assistance of an attorney. You should consult with an attorney before you file any document.

Custody, Visitation & Child Support



**Clark County
Family Law
Self-Help Center
Informational Brochure**

Custody

There are two types of custody: (1) legal custody and (2) physical custody.

Legal custody refers to a parent’s ability to make decisions about important issues that affect his/her child such as: medical, educational, and religious issues. Parents with legal custody are usually entitled to school records, medical records, and access to extracurricular events and activities. There is a presumption that legal custody will be joint.

Physical custody refers to the time that a child physically spends in the care of a parent. There are two main options for physical custody: (1) primary physical custody with the other parent having visitation rights and (2) joint physical custody.

Joint physical custody exists when each parent has custody of the child at least 40% of the time over a one year period.

The judge’s only consideration when making custody orders is the best interest of the child. There is no presumption that one parent is better than another. When deciding custody, the court will only consider a child’s wishes if the child is of the appropriate age and maturity. Usually, a child must be at least fourteen years old.

Children should never be taken to court without the prior approval of the judge.

Child Support

Child Support is the financial contribution made by one parent to help support his/her child.

Child support must be paid until the child emancipates. Usually, a child emancipates upon his/her eighteenth birthday or, if the child is still enrolled in high school, on his/her nineteenth birthday.

Nevada law contains specific guidelines that determine the correct amount of child support to be awarded. The guidelines are mathematical formulas based upon a parent’s gross monthly income.

The court may include the following factors to calculate child support: salary, consistent overtime, self-employment, and imputed income.

Child Support Calculation for a Primary Physical Custody Arrangement*

The noncustodial parent is usually ordered to pay:

- ◆ One Child = 18% of gross monthly income
- ◆ Two Children = 25% of gross monthly income
- ◆ Three Children = 29% of gross monthly income
- ◆ Four Children = 31% of gross monthly income
- ◆ There is a 2% increase for each additional child

If the parents have a joint physical custody arrangement the child support calculation is different.

Joint Physical Custody Child Support Calculation*

Step 1: Calculate the percentage each parent would pay under the primary physical custody calculation.

Step 2: Calculate the difference between these two amounts (subtract the higher number from the lower number).

Step 3: The higher income parent must pay the lower income parent the amount in Step 2.

Step 4: Apply the presumptive maximum if necessary

The minimum amount of child support that will be awarded is \$100.00 per month, per child, regardless of income. There is also a presumptive maximum amount of child support which is adjusted annually on July 1.

Income Range	Presumptive Maximum	
At Least	Less than	Max. amount/child
\$0	\$4,235	\$621
\$4,235	\$6,351	\$683
\$6,351	\$8,467	\$747
\$8,467	\$10,585	\$807
\$10,585	\$12,701	\$870
\$12,701	\$14,816	\$931
\$14,816	No Limit	\$995

*Nevada law allows judges to order an amount of child support that is greater or less than the amount which would be ordered under the applicable formula in certain situations. Please ask a Self-Help Center representative for more information.