

# Family Law

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Family Law is a multi-faceted area of law dealing with matters such as child custody and visitation, child support, spousal support, community property partitions, pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements, divorce and other legal issues pertinent to the family.

Finding the right attorney to represent your best interests can be overwhelming during this emotional and critical point in your life. It is generally a good idea to consult with a lawyer about any major life event or change, such as whether a pre-nuptial agreement is needed, a contested or uncontested divorce, child support modifications, child visitation and custody, spousal support, community property partitions, and other family law issues.

Galloway's lawyers practicing in this area have the experience to represent you in the event that a family law matter should arise. Our lawyers are committed to assisting our clients through these highly personal matters with respect, compassion, and discretion. Each case is unique. So, we take time to understand our client's needs to develop the most appropriate and feasible solutions for each case.

Our attorneys regularly represent clients experiencing the following areas.

## **Divorce**

Divorce, also known as dissolution of marriage, is the legal proceeding involving the final termination of a marriage, canceling the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage and dissolving the bonds of matrimony between two persons. The divorce process can be legally complex and emotionally difficult, particularly when children or significant assets are involved.

## **Community Property Partitions**

This agreement accomplishes a division of property formerly belonging to the community between spouses, and is ancillary to the divorce proceedings. It includes provisions dealing with assumption of debts, execution of a promissory note, and agreement on the use of summary process in the future, if necessary, to enforce the agreement.

## **Spousal Support**

Spousal support payments can be a very intricate part of the outcome of any divorce. If you and your spouse are unable to come to an agreement regarding this area of the separation, our attorneys can help you through this process. The District Court will order support payments on a case-by-case basis considering the following factors: (a) the financial needs of the parties; (B) the income of the parties; (c) the financial obligations of the parties; (d) the current and future earning capacity of the parties; (e) the effect of any custody award; (f) the time necessary for the claimant to acquire appropriate education, training, or

## Attorneys by State

### FLORIDA

Todd M. LaDouceur

### LOUISIANA

Lindsay Meador Young

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employment; (g) the health and age of the parties; (h) the length of the marriage; and (i) the tax repercussions.

### **Child Custody**

Child custody is a legal term that is frequently used in family courts to describe the rights and responsibilities of parents to their minor child when the parents divorce or separate and a child is involved. While there are different types, child custody generally involves two fundamental principles with respect to the family courts and child custody disputes, namely, where the child will live and decisions regarding the upbringing and raising of the child. To be legally binding, the agreement usually must be submitted to the court for approval. Whether you have come to a mutually agreed arrangement or are unable to agree on custody terms, having a knowledgeable and compassionate lawyer is imperative. Our attorneys can assist you through this emotional process and in determining what will work best for your situation.

### **Child Support**

Child Support is an obligation of a parent to provide emotional, financial, and medical support for a child or children. Unlike divorce, child support can be a continuing issue. Our family law attorneys can help you determine your child support rights.

### **Modification of Child Support**

Modifications of child support, much like the initial child support agreement, are held to certain guidelines. Circumstantial changes may arise, causing a party to request a modification.

### **Adoptions**

When entering into an adoption agreement, it is important to understand your rights and obligations before, during, and after you finalize the adoption process. Galloway represents adoptive parents in court proceedings and provides the guidance and support necessary to navigate the process with as little unnecessary stress as possible. We have guided families through many types of adoption cases, including private adoption, stepparent adoption, and Children and Family Services adoption.