



Course-in-a-Book™

CHILD CUSTODY AND SUPPORT COURSE

Study Guide



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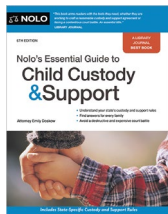
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BEACON HILL *Course-in-a-Book™ Series*

Child Custody and Support Course

#195524



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Course Information

Number of continuing education credit hours recommended for this course (CFP®, CDFA®): **9**

CFP Board sponsor number: 1008

IDFA (CDFA®) sponsor number: 105392

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the legal aspects of child custody and support for advisors with clients going through a divorce. The course covers:

- how negotiation and mediation can keep costs down and improve future dealings with your ex
- where to find your state's child support guidelines
- how judges make custody decisions
- how to enforce and change custody and support orders
- how court trials work
- how Covid-19 is affecting custody arrangements and family court hearings, and
- when you need a lawyer and how to work with one.

Course content

Course text: *Child Custody and Support* by Emily Doskow, Attorney (6th Ed., 2024, Nolo Publishing).

Study Guide: Course information, learning objectives, chapter list.

Final exam (online): Forty-five multiple-choice questions.

Subject Codes

CFP Board: *General Principles of Financial Planning*

NAPFA: *Financial Planning Process*

IDFA (CDFA®): *Financial Planning (Divorce)*

Level of Complexity

Overview:

CFP Board: Programs that provide a general review of a subject from a broad perspective or dive into basic knowledge on a specific skill or topic. Best suited for CFP® professionals seeking knowledge in an unfamiliar subject area and with entry level experience.

IDFA: Programs provide a general review of a subject from a broad perspective or dive into basic knowledge on a specific skill or topic. Best suited for CDFA® professionals seeking knowledge in an unfamiliar subject area and with entry level experience.

Instructions for Taking This Course

- Log in to your secure account at www.bhfe.com. Go to "My Account."
- You must complete this course within one year of purchase (If the course is "Expired," contact us and we will add the latest edition of the course to your account (no charge).
- To retain the course-PDF after completion (for future reference) and to enable enhanced navigation: From "My Account," Download and save the course-PDF to your computer. This will enable the search function (Menu: Edit>Find) and bookmarks (icon on left side of document window).
- Complete the course by following the learning objectives listed for the course, studying the text, and, if included, studying the review questions at the end of each major section (or at the end of the course).
- Once you have completed studying the course and you are confident that the learning objectives have been met, answer the final exam questions (online).

Instructions for Taking the Online Exam

- Log in to your secure account at www.bhfe.com. Go to "My Account."
- A passing grade of at least 70% is required on the exam for this course.
- You will have three attempts to pass the exam (call or email us after three unsuccessful attempts for instructions).
- The exam is not timed, and it does not need to be completed in one session.
- For a printed copy of the exam questions, open the exam and press "Print Exam."
- Once you pass the exam, the results (correct/incorrect answers) and certificate of completion appear in "My Account." A confirmation email is also sent.
- CFP Board and IRS credit hours, if applicable, are reported on Tuesdays and at the end of the month.

Have a question? Call us at 800-588-7039 or email us at contact@bhfe.com.

Learning Objectives

As a result of studying the course-book, you should be able to meet the following learning objectives:

- Recall the key elements of the divorce process
- Understand the cost implications of child custody and support, and how negotiation and mediation can keep those costs down
- Differentiate between state child support guidelines
- Understand how judges make custody decisions
- Understand how custody and support orders work
- Understand how court trials work

Chapter List

Introduction: Your Child Custody and Support Companion

1. Basics of Divorce

- The Big Issues: Child Custody and Support
- When You Separate
- Annulment
- The Court Process
- Kinds of Divorces
- Parentage Actions for Unmarried Couples
- Divorce for Same-Sex Couples

2. Basics of Child Custody

- Physical and Legal Custody
- Creating a Parenting Plan: Out of Court
- Sample Parenting Plans
- When Parents Can't Agree: Going to Court
- Contentious Issues
- Making Shared Parenting Work

3. Basics of Child Support

- Who Pays Support?
- How Child Support is Calculated
- How to Estimate Child Support Obligations
- Deviating from the Guidelines
- Creating Your Own Written Agreement
- Going to Court for a Support Decision
- Temporary Support While the Divorce is Pending
- Taxes and Your Children
- Health Insurance and Medical Child Support Orders

4. When You Decide to Divorce: The First Month

- Talking to the Kids
- Figure Out Immediate Housing and Custody Issues
- Make A Temporary Parenting Plan
- Start Addressing Money Issues
- Get Organized

- File Court Papers
- How to Get Your Agreements Made Into Orders
- Take of Yourself and Your Kids

5. Avoiding Custody or Support Trial: Alternatives to Court

- Why You Should Avoid a Court Fight
- Negotiating with Your Spouse
- Mediation
- Collaborative Divorce
- Arbitration
- Private Judging
- Going to Trial

6. Dealing With the Court: Paperwork and Court Hearings

- Types of Court Hearings
- Scheduling a Hearing
- Dealing With the Other Parent's Attorney
- Preparing Court Documents
- Documents You Might Need
- Declarations
- Serving Papers
- Gathering Evidence: Disclosures and Discovery
- Preparing for the Hearing
- At the Hearing
- After the Hearing

7. Going to Trial

- Should you have a Lawyer?
- Getting a Trial Date
- Issues in Child Custody Trials
- Issues in Child Support Trials
- Courtroom Procedures at Your Trial
- After the Trial

8. Custody Orders: Living With, Enforcing, and Changing Them

- Sharing Parenting After a Custody Hearing or Trial
- When the Other Parent Violates a Court Order
- When the Other Parent is Just Annoying
- When the Kids Don't Want to Go

- If You Suspect Child Abuse
- When the Other Parent Doesn't Take the Children
- Traveling With Your Child
- Changing Your Custody Arrangements
- When One Parent Is Out of State
- If You Move to Another State: Registering Your Custody Order

9. Child Support Orders: Living With, Enforcing, and Changing Them

- Arranging for Payment
- If You're Paying Support: Changing the Amount
- How Long Child Support Lasts
- When Circumstances Change
- Enforcing Support Orders Across State Lines
- If Your Spouse Goes Missing
- Bankruptcy and Child Support

10. Worst-Case Scenarios: Kidnapping, Abuse, and Interferences With Custody

- Kidnapping
- Child Abuse
- Interference With Parental Relationship
- Domestic Relationship
- Supervised Visitation for Difficult Situations

11. Custody and Support in Military Families

- Delaying Court Decisions: The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act
- Custody and Visitation
- Child Support
- Medical Benefits for Children
- Other Benefits
- Tax Issues
- Locating a Service Member
- Serving Papers on Someone on a U.S. Military Base
- Domestic Violence and Other Abuse

12. The Law: How to Work With a Lawyer and Do Your Own Legal Research

- Should you Lawyer Up?

- Working With a Lawyer
- Looking for a Lawyer
- Paying a Lawyer
- If you have problems with your Lawyer
- Getting the Other Parent to Pay Your Attorneys' Fees
- Help With Self-Representation: Legal Document Preparers
- Knowledge Is Power: Learn the Law
- Quick Guide to Legal Research