

Family Services

Note: All fees are subject to change without notice.

Co-parenting Seminar

The court may order parties (or parties may self-refer) to the co-parenting program for families in transition provided by Ellen Hahn, LLC. This program helps parents become aware of how their actions impact their children; provides parents with strategies to stay child-focused; and establish positive co-parenting relationships. Two 3-hour sessions are held consecutive nights. Self-referrals register through the Family Services Office. The fee is \$125.00 per person. This program is eligible for fee waiver application if court ordered.

Parenting Time Mediation

The court may order parties to a Court-appointed mediator for a minimum of two 2-hour sessions to resolve disputed custody and access issues. The mediator reports the outcome of the mediation process through a written memorandum to the Court. If the parties reach an agreement, it is reduced to writing, signed by the parties and submitted to the Courts. The fee for court-ordered mediation is \$75.00 per hour per party. This program is eligible for fee waiver application if court ordered.

Home Studies

The court may order parties for a professional evaluation of their home environment and interviews with family and household members to assist the Court in making decisions that are in the best interest of the children. The study includes criminal background and child abuse history inquiries. The Calvert County Department of Social Services provides this service for a fee of \$300.00 per household. This service is eligible for fee waiver application if court ordered.

Supervised Visitation

The Court may order parties for supervised or therapeutic supervised visitation services provided by local agencies. This is a \$50.00 per parent intake fee. Each visit is \$25.00 per hour per child. Therapeutic supervised visitation is \$80/visit. Rates subject to change. This service is eligible for fee waiver application if court ordered.

Evaluations

Custody Evaluation

A custody evaluation is a study and analysis of the needs and development of a child who is the subject of a custody dispute. It assesses the abilities of the parties to care for the child and meet the child's specific needs. The evaluation includes a review of court, educational, medical and legal records and interviews with each party and the child and can include collateral sources. Mental health evaluations may also be ordered.

Fee: \$3,000 and up per person depending on provider.

Fee Waiver: Not eligible for fee waiver. Fees are the responsibility of each party.

Provider: The Family Services Office maintains a list of court-approved private licensed providers.

Mental Health Evaluations

The court may order parties for mental health services to include psychological or psychiatric evaluations, or family counseling to assist the court in determining custody and access decisions that are in the best interest of the children. The Court may refer to a variety of public and private licensed mental health providers in the community. Fees vary and are the responsibility of each party. These services are eligible for fee waiver application if court ordered.

Children's Attorney

An attorney may be appointed to represent the child, the child's best interest or as a privilege attorney. The fee is \$175.00/hr. This service is eligible for waiver application if court ordered, however, only partial fee waivers are granted.

Substance Abuse Screening/Evaluation/Treatment

The Court may order parties for substance abuse screen and/or evaluation through Calvert County Behavioral Health. Services and fees vary. Fees are the responsibility of each party.

Domestic Violence

The Court may order parties (or parties may self-refer) to a 26-week abuser intervention program provided by the Crisis Intervention Center. The program is designed to confront the destructiveness of current thinking patterns, unlearn inappropriate habits, and to instill a desire to modify behavior and accept responsibility for abusive behavior. Fees are the responsibility of each party.

Fee Waiver Information

For eligible services, a party may file a Motion for Wavier of Family Services Fees based on significantly limited income within 14 day of the order date. Acceptable forms are available in the Family Services Office or the Clerk's office. If the Court grants the motion, Family Services will pay a portion of the fee for each waiver approved. Please note that determination is based on documented need and funds availability. The following proof of income must be attached to the motion:

- Proof of unemployment
- Federal Income tax return if self-employed (most recent)
- Pay stubs for two months
- Order for child support you pay or receive
- Subsidized housing verification
- Food stamp verification
- Temporary Cash Assistance verification

- Disability verification

Legal Resources

Family Law Assistance

The Family Law Assistance Clinic provides the opportunity to consult with a family law attorney free of charge regarding:

- Divorce
- Custody
- Parenting time
- Child support
- Guardianship
- Domestic violence
- Adoption
- Name change

The attorney can answer questions about the legal process for family law cases, assist in the completion of relevant forms and offer limited legal advice on your specific case.

The clinic is offered every Wednesday from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on a first come, first served basis. On the day of the clinic, you must complete a brief intake in the Family Services Office on the first floor of the Calvert County Circuit courthouse, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. Intake begins at 8:30 a.m.

Maryland Courts Self-Help Center

410-260-1392

Operates Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Family Law Hotline

800-845-8550

Operates Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

800-510-0050 for intake

Intake hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or apply on line at www.mvlslaw.org.

Civil Law Assistance

The Civil Law Assistance Clinic provides the opportunity to consult with a civil law attorney free of charge regarding the follow civil issues only:

- Contracts
- Expungements
- Shielding

- Landlord/Tenant
- Employment
- Home Improvement
- Judgment

The attorney can answer questions about the legal process for civil law cases, assist in the completion of relevant forms and offer limited legal advice on your specific case.

The clinic is offered the first Thursday of every month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on a first come, first served basis. On the day of the clinic, you must complete a brief intake in the Family Services Office on the first floor of the Calvert County Circuit courthouse, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. Intakes begins at 8:30 a.m.

Other Useful Links

Maryland Courts

www.mdcourts.gov

This website provides information, links to forms, videos and referrals to a wide variety of court-related issues.

The People's Law Library

www.peoples-law.org

This website contains information regarding all types of legal issues.