

# **GRANDPARENT VISITATION:**

## **GRANDPARENTS' RIGHT TO VISIT THEIR GRANDCHILDREN**



**NEIGHBORHOOD  
LEGAL SERVICES**

**A FAMILY LAW HANDBOOK SERIES PRODUCED BY  
NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES  
THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS BAR FOUNDATION**

(2010)

The information provided in this booklet does not constitute legal advice and is based on the laws of Massachusetts as of the publication date.

It is always advisable to seek legal advice from an attorney.  
**A list of resources is available on the last page.**

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This brochure is designed to answer questions about a grandparent's right to visit their grandchildren and the parent's right to deny grandparent visitation.

In particular, this booklet focuses on answering your questions about:

- ⇒ What the law is in Massachusetts regarding grandparent visitation;
- ⇒ The process of grandparents obtaining visitation rights in court;
- ⇒ What the judge may consider in deciding whether to allow grandparent visitation.

## The Law Regarding Grandparent Visitation



Under Massachusetts law, grandparents have the right to petition the Probate and Family Court for visitation rights with their minor grandchild. The Grandparent Visitation statute can be found at Mass. General Laws Chapter 119 Section 39D. The petition is limited to situations where the parents of the minor child are **NOT** living together. If the family is intact (i.e. both parents are living with the child or children), grandparents **CANNOT** ask the court for visitation rights.

There are five basic statutory situations under which grandparent visitation may be granted in Massachusetts. Grandparent visitation can be ordered when the child is an unmarried minor and:

- ⇒ The parents of the minor are divorced; or
- ⇒ The parents are married but not living together; or
- ⇒ The parents are under a temporary order or a judgment for separate support; or
- ⇒ One or both of the parents are deceased; or
- ⇒ The child was born out of wedlock and the parents do not live together. In this case, there must be a signed Acknowledgment of Paternity or an adjudication of paternity for the paternal grandparents to seek visitation.

**However, *maternal* grandparents may seek visitation even if paternity has not been established. *Maternal grandparents* are the parents of the child's mother. *Paternal grandparents* are the parents of the child's father.**

### Note:

If the child is adopted by a stranger other than a step-parent, the grandparents *cannot* ask for, nor will they be given, court-ordered visitation. Additionally, any previously granted visitation rights will terminate upon the adoption.

## How the Court Process Works

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In order for grandparents to be granted visitation, the grandparents must do the following:

1. Obtain a "Petition for Grandparent Visitation" and an "Affidavit Disclosing Care and Custody" from the Probate and Family Court (see sample forms at the end of this brochure).
2. Fill these forms out and file them at the Probate and Family Court located in the county in which the divorce, separate support, or paternity action was originally filed. If the original action was filed outside of Massachusetts, or if an action has never been filed, you must file the Petition for Grandparent Visitation in the county where the child now resides.
3. In part 4 of the Complaint, you must indicate, by checking the appropriate box, which statutory ground gives the grandparent(s) the right to petition the court for visitation. If the particular circumstances surrounding your case are not listed in part 4, (a) through (g), you do not have the right as a grandparent to seek visitation under Massachusetts law.
4. Grandparents seeking visitation should also file a detailed affidavit explaining why visitation is in the child's best interest, the pre-existing relationship between the grandparent and child, and the harm the child may suffer if visitation is denied.
5. After you file the Petition for Grandparent Visitation and the Affidavit Disclosing Care and Custody with the appropriate court, you will receive a copy of the Petition and a "Domestic Relations Summons" in the mail. You need to bring the summons and a copy of the Petition for Grandparent Visitation to a Sheriff or constable to effectuate proper service of process to notify the parents of the commenced visitation action.
6. The Court will notify the parents and the grandparents of the date and time of the case management conference to schedule the court date. During the hearing, both sides will then have the opportunity to present their arguments as to why the proposed visitation would or would not be in the child's best interest.
7. The judge will either grant or deny the request for visitation based on the facts.



If you are anxious for visitation to begin before the date of the hearing on the Petition, you may file a "Motion for a Temporary Order of Grandparent Visitation." Along with this Motion, you must also file an Affidavit, explaining why immediate visitation would be in the child's best interest, and a Proposed Order. The Probate and Family Court can provide you with these forms. For more information on filing motions, see the Neighborhood Legal Services booklet titled Information on How to File Papers in Essex Probate and Family Court.

## What the Judge May Consider in Deciding Visitation

In response to the Blixt v. Blixt case in 2002, case law 437 Mass. 649 states that a parent's decision regarding grandparent visitation must be given "presumptive validity." This means that in order for the grandparents to receive visitation without the consent of the parent, "the grandparents must allege and prove that the failure to grant visitation will cause the child significant harm."

Thus, grandparents need to show the judge that it is **in the child's best interest** to regularly visit with their grandparents AND that failure to grant grandparent visitation will cause the child **significant harm**.

Grandparents seeking visitation rights should file a **detailed affidavit** explaining the facts in their particular case, including their prior involvement in their grandchild's life as well as how lack of visitation would seriously adversely affect the child. If there has been little or no prior grandparent involvement in the grandchild's life, then the grandparent must prove how visitation is nevertheless necessary to protect the child from significant harm.

In considering the **child's best interest**, the judge can consider any facts in the case including:

- ✓ the child's well being;
- ✓ the child's past relationship with the grandparent;
- ✓ the frequency of past contact between the child and the grandparent;
- ✓ the relationship between the grandparent and the child's parent and the past contact between the two;
- ✓ the reasons for the requested visits;
- ✓ the existence of any parental opposition to the request.

In considering the **significant harm** that would be caused to the child if grandparent visitation is denied, the judge can consider any facts including:

- ✓ how the child's health will be adversely affected (including mental health and/or emotional well being)
- ✓ how the child's safety will be adversely affected
- ✓ how the child's welfare will be adversely affected



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Division Essex

Probate and Family Court Department

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

PETITION FOR GRANDPARENT(S) VISITATION

4. Please check and complete ONLY ONE of the following sections.

- a.  On April 14, 2008, the respondents were divorced by judgment of the Court. The judgment did not provide for visitation rights for the above named grandparent(s).
- b.  On \_\_\_\_\_, the respondent father was adjudicated by order/judgment to be the father of the child(ren). The adjudicated father and the mother of the child(ren) do not reside together. The order/judgment did not provide for visitation rights for the above named grandparent(s).
- c.  On \_\_\_\_\_, the respondents signed an acknowledgment of parentage which was approved by order/judgment of the court. The parents of the child(ren) do not reside together. The order/judgment did not provide for visitation rights for the above named grandparent(s).
- d.  The respondents are married but living apart and are subject to a a temporary order or judgment of separate. The order/judgment did not provide for visitation rights for the above named grandparent(s).
- e.  On \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ died leaving \_\_\_\_\_ as the surviving parent.  
(date of death) (name of deceased parent)
- f.  On \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ died and on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ died.  
(date of death) (name of surviving parent) (date of death) (name of deceased parent(1)) (date of death) (name of deceased parent(2))
- died. The child(ren) is/are currently \_\_\_\_\_  
(explain legal status of child(ren)'s care)
- g.  Petitioner(s) is/are the maternal grandparent(s) of the above-named child(ren) whose parents were not wed at the time of his/her/their birth.

5. The child(ren) has/have not been adopted by a person other than a stepparent.

- 6.  The petitioner(s) allege(s) that there exists a significant relationship between the grandparent(s) and the child(ren) and that it is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) that petitioner(s) be granted visitation with the child(ren).
- The petitioner(s) allege(s) that there does **not** exist a significant relationship between the grandparent(s) and the child(ren) but that nonetheless it is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) that petitioner(s) be granted visitation with the child(ren).

*Please attach an affidavit describing the nature of the involvement and relationship between the grandparent(s) and the grandchild(ren); the circumstances surrounding either the curtailment or termination of contact; a description of current level of contact, if any; and a statement describing the significant harm to the child(ren)'s health, safety, or welfare likely to be suffered by the child(ren) if visitation is not ordered.*

WHEREFORE, petitioner(s) request(s) that this Court enter a judgment that provides him/her/them with visitation rights.

SIGNED UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY.

Date September 21, 2010

Signature (Petitioner 1) \_\_\_\_\_


Tel. No. +1 (978) 744-1234

Signature (Petitioner 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. +1 (978) 744-1234



**BEFORE COMPLETING, READ INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK OF PART 2  
TYPE OR PRINT WITH A BALLPOINT PEN - - PRESS HARD**

<b>AFFIDAVIT DISCLOSING CARE OR CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS</b>		<b>TRIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS</b>			<b>DOCKET NUMBER</b>																				
Pursuant to Trial Court Rule IV		Name Of Case _____																							
<input type="checkbox"/> Boston Municipal Court	<input type="checkbox"/> District Court Division _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court Division _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Probate & Family Court Division _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Court Division _____																					
<b>Section 1</b>	I, _____, hereby declare, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief that all the information on this form is true and complete: <small align="center">NAME OF PARTY (PRINT)</small>																								
<b>Section 2</b>	The name(s) of the child(ren) whose care or custody is at issue in this case are: A. _____ B. _____ C. _____ <small>(LAST, FIRST) (LAST, FIRST) (LAST, FIRST)</small> Use only the letter appearing in front of the child's name above when referring to that child in completing the remaining sections.																								
<b>Section 3</b>	The party filing this affidavit may request certain addresses to be kept confidential if the address is a shelter for battered persons and their dependent child(ren), or the party filing this affidavit believes that he/she or the child(ren) are in danger of physical or emotional abuse, or the party is filing an action under G.L.c.209A. If you believe that this provision applies to you, check the box at the right, complete sections 10 and 11 on the reverse side of this page and DO NOT complete sections 4 and 5 below. <input type="checkbox"/>																								
<b>Section 4</b>	The address(es) of the above-named child(ren) whose care or custody is at issue in this case are: <small align="center">Address(es) Address(es) During Last 2 Years, if Different</small> CHILD A. _____ CHILD B. _____ CHILD C. _____																								
<b>Section 5</b>	My address is: _____																								
<b>Section 6</b>	I <input type="checkbox"/> have <input type="checkbox"/> have not participated in and I <input type="checkbox"/> know <input type="checkbox"/> do not know of other care or custody proceedings involving the above-named child(ren) in Massachusetts or in any other state or country.																								
Certified copies of any pleadings or determinations in a care or custody proceeding outside of Massachusetts listed in sections 7 and 8 must be filed with this affidavit unless already filed with this court or an extension for filing these documents has been granted by this court.																									
<b>Section 7</b>	The following is a list of all pending or concluded proceedings I have participated in or know of involving the care or custody of the above-named child(ren): <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:10%;">Letter of Child</th> <th style="width:15%;">Court</th> <th style="width:15%;">Docket No.</th> <th style="width:20%;">Status of Case (Custody awarded to) (Date of award)</th> <th style="width:10%;">[W]itness [P]arty [O]ther [N]one</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CHILD _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td align="center">[ ]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHILD _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td align="center">[ ]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHILD _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td align="center">[ ]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Letter of Child	Court	Docket No.	Status of Case (Custody awarded to) (Date of award)	[W]itness [P]arty [O]ther [N]one	CHILD _____	_____	_____	_____	[ ]	CHILD _____	_____	_____	_____	[ ]	CHILD _____	_____	_____	_____	[ ]
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CHILD _____	_____	_____	_____	[ ]																					
CHILD _____	_____	_____	_____	[ ]																					
<b>Section 8</b>	The names and addresses of parties to care or custody proceedings involving any of the above-named child(ren) or those claiming a legal right to these child(ren) during the last two years (not including myself) are: <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:10%;">Letter of Child</th> <th style="width:40%;">Name of Party/Claimant</th> <th style="width:50%;">Current (or last known) Address of Party/Claimant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CHILD _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHILD _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHILD _____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Letter of Child	Name of Party/Claimant	Current (or last known) Address of Party/Claimant	CHILD _____	_____	_____	CHILD _____	_____	_____	CHILD _____	_____	_____								
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CHILD _____	_____	_____																							
CHILD _____	_____	_____																							
CHILD _____	_____	_____																							
<b>Section 9</b>	If the box at the right is checked, this affidavit discloses the adoption of one or more of the above-named child(ren) and I am requesting the court to impound this affidavit. See instructions. <input type="checkbox"/>																								
This affidavit must be personally signed by the party listed in section 1 above, unless he/she is under 18 years of age or has been adjudged incompetent in which case the attorney of record must sign. A revised affidavit must be filed with the court if new information is discovered subsequent to this filing.																									
Signed this _____ day of _____, 19____ under the penalties of perjury.																									
X SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR INCOMPETENT/JUVENILE			PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING _____																						
ADDRESS OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR INCOMPETENT/JUVENILE _____																									
<b>THE PARTY FILING THIS AFFIDAVIT MUST FURNISH A COPY OF IT TO ALL OTHER PARTIES TO THIS ACTION.</b>																									

**ADDRESSES TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL**

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The party filing this affidavit may request certain address(es) to be kept confidential if the address is a shelter for battered persons and their dependent child(ren), or the party filing this affidavit believes that he/she or the child(ren) are in danger of physical or emotional abuse, or the party is filing an action under G.L. c. 209A. If you checked the box in section 3 indicating that you believe the above provision applies to you, complete sections 10 and 11 below, and DO NOT complete sections 4 and 5.

	The address(es) of the child(ren) listed in section 2 whose care or custody is at issue in this case are:		
	<b>Child(ren)</b>	<b>Address(es)</b>	<b>Address(es) During Last 2 Years, If Different</b>
<b>Section 10</b>	<b>Child A.</b>	_____	_____
		Street Address	Street Address
	<b>Child B.</b>	_____	_____
		City, State, Zip Code	City, State, Zip Code
	<b>Child C.</b>	_____	_____
		Street Address	Street Address
		_____	_____
		City, State, Zip Code	City, State, Zip Code

<b>Section 11</b>	My address is: _____ Street Address, City, State, Zip Code
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**LIST OF ATTORNEYS AND GUARDIANS AD LITEM/INVESTIGATORS**

Please list the names of all attorneys and guardians ad litem involved in the pending proceedings listed in section 7.

<b>Section 12</b>	1. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Attorney(s) for child(ren). (Please specify if each child is represented by a different attorney.)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
	2. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ GAL(s) / Investigator(s) (Please indicate if a GAL has been appointed to represent a specific child.)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
	3. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Attorney(s) for mother.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
	4. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Attorney(s) for father	
	<b>(Fill Out Below If Applicable)</b>	
	I, _____ attorney for D.S.S. or its agent have ascertained from the above checked off attorney(s) and guardian(s) ad litem/investigators a willingness to accept an appointment from the court to represent the same party should the court elect to make such an appointment.	
	_____ (Signature)	

## READ BEFORE COMPLETING AFFIDAVIT

### A. WHAT IS AN "AFFIDAVIT DISCLOSING CARE OR CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS"?

It is a document signed under the penalties of perjury which lists information required by Trial Court Rule IV concerning the child(ren) involved in a care or custody proceeding.

### B. WHO MUST FILE THIS AFFIDAVIT?

The party to a petition (including a modification petition) or complaint involving the care, custody visitation, or change of name of a child pursuant to G.L. c. 119 (except delinquency actions under G.L. c. 119), G.L. c. 201, G.L. c. 207, G.L. c. 208, G.L. c. 209, G.L. c. 209A, G.L. c. 209C, G.L. c. 210, or any other provision of law concerning the care or custody of a child must file this affidavit.

This affidavit **must be signed by the party**, unless the party is under 18 years of age or has been adjudged incompetent, in which case the attorney of record must sign this affidavit on behalf of the juvenile or incompetent party.

### C. WHEN MUST THIS AFFIDAVIT BE FILED?

The person filing the petition or complaint must file this affidavit at the time of filing, and the other party must file this affidavit with the first pleading.

This affidavit should be filed upon issuance of a CHINS petition pursuant to G.L. c. 119, not upon application for such a petition.

This affidavit need not be filed if the petition or complaint is for **support only**.

### D. WHERE MUST THIS AFFIDAVIT BE FILED?

The completed affidavit must be filed, in person or by mail, with the Clerk-Magistrate or Register of Probate in the court in which this action is being brought.

### E. WHEN MUST A REVISED AFFIDAVIT BE FILED?

A revised affidavit must be filed with the Clerk-Magistrate or Register of Probate if new information is discovered subsequent to the filing of this affidavit.

### F. WHAT MUST BE FILED AS PART OF THIS AFFIDAVIT?

Certified copies of each pleading and of any determination entered in a foreign country or in a state other than Massachusetts must be filed with this affidavit unless these documents are on file with the court in this case, or an extension has been granted by the court for filing these documents.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AFFIDAVIT

When completing this affidavit if additional space is needed for any of the sections, attach a separate sheet which includes your name (printed), the docket number and the sections to which you are referring. You must also sign and date the sheet.

The party filing this affidavit **must** complete the section entitled "Name of Case" and indicate the Court Department and Division in which the case is being brought. The docket number should also be listed, if known.

### DO NOT COMPLETE SECTIONS 2, 3, 4, 8 AND 10 IF THIS AFFIDAVIT IS BEING FILED WITH A PETITION FOR ADOPTION.

- Section 1** You must print your first and last name. If this affidavit is being filed by an attorney on behalf of an incompetent person or juvenile, the name of the party on whose behalf this affidavit is being completed must be listed.
- Section 2** List the names of all child(ren) involved in this care or custody proceeding. All future references to the child(ren) listed in this section should be with the letter in front of the child's name (e.g. If John Smith is listed next to the letter A, all future references to John Smith will be as Child A).
- Section 3** Check the box if this section applies to you. If this box is checked, **do not complete Sections 4 and 5**. You must complete Sections 10 and 11 on the reverse side of page 1.
- Sections 4 & 5** List the present and all prior addresses during the last two years of the above-named child(ren) and your present address. If legal custody of a child has been awarded to a social service agency, list the name and address of the agency with legal custody.
- Section 6** Check the appropriate boxes.
- Section 7** List all pending or concluded proceedings which you have participated in or know of involving the care or custody of the child(ren) named in this affidavit. Indicate the letter of the child; the court in which the case was heard; the docket number; the person(s) to whom custody was awarded and the date of the award; and the nature of your participation in the proceeding by listing "W" for witness, "P" for party, "O" for other or "N" for none. If specific information required in this section is not known, you or your attorney should contact the court where the case was heard to obtain such information. **In the case of a petition for adoption, list all information except the person(s) to whom custody was awarded, the date of the award and the nature of your participation. Under the heading "Status of Case", indicate the type of case.**
- Section 8** List the name(s) and current residential address(es), if known, otherwise the last known address(es) of parties to care or custody proceedings or persons claiming a legal right to the above-named child(ren) during the last two years. Do not include yourself.
- Section 9** Check this box if this affidavit discloses the adoption of a child and you are requesting the court to impound this affidavit. If this provision is applicable, you should contact the Clerk-Magistrate or Register of Probate for assistance concerning the appropriate motion to be filed.
- Sections 10 & 11** **COMPLETE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED THE BOX IN SECTION 3.** List the present and all prior addresses during the last two years of the child(ren) listed in Section 2 of this affidavit and your present address. If legal custody of a child has been awarded to a social service agency, list the name and address of the agency with legal custody.
- Section 12** List the attorneys and guardians ad litem/investigators previously appointed in the pending actions listed in Section 7.
- Signature** The party listed in Section 1 must date and sign this affidavit except for an incompetent person or juvenile, in which case the attorney of record on behalf of the juvenile or incompetent party must date and sign this affidavit and print his/her name and address.

**THIS AFFIDAVIT MUST BE FILED WITH THE COURT AND A COPY FURNISHED BY THE PARTY FILING IT TO ALL OTHER PARTIES TO THE ACTION.**

# Helpful Resources

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Many Probate and Family Court Forms Can be Found at:  
<http://www.mass.gov/courts/courtsandjudges/courts/probateandfamilycourt/forms.html>  
General Information on family law issues can be found at: [www.masslegalhelp.org](http://www.masslegalhelp.org)

## Lawyer-for-the-Day

Provides free assistance at the Courthouse in preparing forms and documents for those who are income eligible.

Probate and Family Court-Salem Division  
36 Federal Street, Salem, MA 01970  
Call the court at (978) 744-1020

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Thursday mornings*

Probate and Family Court-Lawrence Division  
Fenton Judicial Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
2 Appleton Street, Lawrence, MA 01840  
Call the clerk's office at (978) 686-9692

*Call the Court for the Schedule*

## Legal Services

Provides free legal services to those who are eligible.

Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.  
37 Friend St, Suite 300 Lynn, MA 01902  
170 Common St, Suite 300 Lawrence, MA 01852  
(781) 599-7730 and (978) 686-6900  
[www.neighborhoodlaw.org](http://www.neighborhoodlaw.org)

*Provides direct representation, Pro Se  
Divorce Clinic, and Helpline advice  
to Southern Essex County*

Merrimack Valley North Shore Legal Services, Inc.  
35 John Street, Suite 302  
Lowell, MA 01852  
(978) 458-1465  
[www.mvlegal.org](http://www.mvlegal.org)

*Provides family law services to  
Essex and Northern Middlesex Counties*

## Reduced Fee Lawyer Referral Programs

Provides referrals to lawyers who may charge reduced fees. Call for eligibility requirements:

Boston Bar Association (*Greater Boston*)  
16 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108  
(617) 742-0625  
[www.bostonbar.org/lrs/index.htm](http://www.bostonbar.org/lrs/index.htm)

Mass. Bar Association (*statewide*)  
20 West St., Boston, MA 02111  
(617) 542-9103, (866)-627-7577  
[www.massbar.org/lawhelp/need\\_lawyer/](http://www.massbar.org/lawhelp/need_lawyer/)

National Lawyer's Guild  
14 Beacon Street, Suite 407  
Boston, MA 02108  
(617) 227-7008  
[www.nlgmass.org/lrs](http://www.nlgmass.org/lrs)

Essex County Bar Association  
Shetland Office Park  
45 Congress St, Ste. 4100  
Salem, MA 01970  
(978) 741-7888  
[www.essexcountybar.org](http://www.essexcountybar.org)

## The Child Support Enforcement Division (CSE) of the Department of Revenue (DOR)

Provides assistance in establishing paternity and establishing, enforcing, and collecting child support.

Probate and Family Court-Salem Division  
36 Federal Street  
Salem, MA 01970  
(978) 744-1020

Probate and Family Court-Lawrence Division  
Fenton Judicial Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.  
2 Appleton St., Lawrence, MA 01840  
(978) 686-9692 (*open only Mon. & Wed. 8-1*)

## **The Family Law How-to Series includes:**

Copies of these booklets are available at the Lawyer for the Day Office and Legal Services programs listed inside this booklet.

- 
- ◆ How to Fill Out a Financial Statement (Short Form)
  - ◆ Divorce and the Alternatives
  - ◆ The Department of Children and Families: Seeking Services, the 51A Investigation and Consumer Rights During an Investigation
  - ◆ Name Changes
  - ◆ Grandparent Visitation
  - ◆ How to Get Child Support
  - ◆ What Is Best for Your Child: Working Through Child Custody and Visitation Issues
  - ◆ Information about How to File Papers in Essex Probate and Family Court
  - ◆ Obtaining Child Support when Getting a Restraining Order: What You Need to Know
  - ◆ Information About How to Establish Paternity
-

