



Your Guide to Divorce in Montgomery County, Maryland

What to Expect, Where to Begin, and How to Protect Your Future



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Introduction

Welcome — You Don't Have to Navigate Divorce Alone

Divorce is more than just a legal process — it's a life-altering transition that affects your finances, your living situation, and most importantly, your children. It's normal to feel overwhelmed or uncertain about what comes next. At the Law Office of LaSheena M. Williams, we understand how deeply personal this experience is. That's why we created this guide — to help you feel more prepared, more empowered, and more in control.

This resource is built specifically for individuals and families in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Circuit Court here has its own rules, timelines, and support services — and those can be hard to understand if you're facing this for the first time. This guide aims to bridge that gap.

Whether you are filing for divorce, responding to a spouse's petition, seeking custody of your children, or exploring options for support, this guide will give you a clearer sense of the road ahead.

We also include practical information like phone numbers, schedules, and links to local parenting and visitation resources — not just legal advice, but real support.

Divorce doesn't have to destroy your future. With the right guidance, it can be a path toward clarity, safety, and healing. We hope this guide helps you take your next steps with confidence — and we are here when you're ready to talk.

Inside, you'll learn:

- How the divorce process works in Montgomery County
- What services the court offers for families with children
- The difference between mediation, evaluations, and litigation
- What to expect if custody or property division is contested
- Where to find free or low-cost help if you need it



Overview of Divorce in Montgomery County

Divorce in Maryland may be granted on the basis of either mutual consent or fault-based grounds. In Montgomery County, divorce cases are handled in the Circuit Court located at 50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville.

Once a divorce complaint is filed, the case is assigned to one of several "tracks" that determine how it moves through the court

system. These include uncontested fast-track cases (Track 0), general divorce and support cases (Track 1 or 2), and cases involving contested custody or property (Track 3 or 4).

If custody is an issue, or if there are disputes about assets, the court may order mediation, co-parenting education, or even a full custody evaluation.



Getting Started

To begin a divorce in Montgomery County, one spouse must file a **Complaint for Divorce**. You'll need to include details about living arrangements, children, and finances. After filing, the other party is **served**, and court deadlines begin.

You will also be scheduled for a **scheduling hearing**, which is where the court assigns your case to a track and may order services like mediation or parenting classes. At this stage, having a knowledgeable attorney can help you prepare for what's ahead.

Tip: Even if your divorce seems uncontested, having legal advice ensures your rights are protected.

Child Custody & Visitation

Custody decisions are based on the best interests of the child, not just what parents want. If you and your co-parent disagree, the court may order:



Custody Mediation

A free 3-hour session to help parents reach a parenting agreement.



Co-Parenting Skills Classes

Two sessions covering child development, conflict reduction, and cooperative parenting strategies.



Custody Assessments or Evaluations

Court evaluators (social workers) may conduct home visits, interviews, and provide oral or written reports to the court.

These services aim to minimize conflict and support healthy parent-child relationships.

Family Support Services

Montgomery County offers many free or low-cost resources for families in transition. These include:



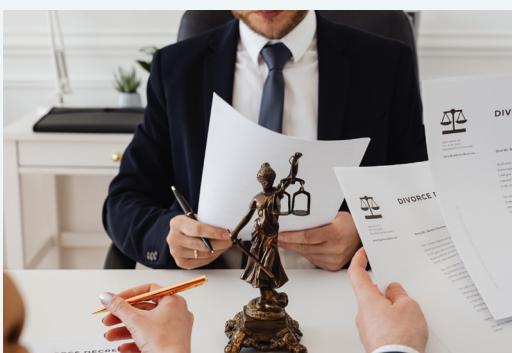
Family Law Self-Help Center (Room 1500, South Tower)

Walk-in legal assistance for basic family law questions.



Co-Parenting Book & Resource List

Includes books like Mom's House, Dad's House and Dinosaurs Divorce to support both parents and children.



Mediation Referrals

The Conflict Resolution Center offers free services in some cases.



Evaluations & Psychological Support

Ordered in high-conflict or abuse cases.

Domestic Violence & Protection

If you are experiencing abuse or threats of violence, the court provides immediate help. You can request a protective order through the Circuit Court. Resources available:



Montgomery County Family Justice Center
240-773-0444

Offers coordinated services including legal support, counseling, and protective order assistance — all in one secure location. Call 240-773-0444 to access help.



**House of Ruth
Maryland**

House of Ruth
240-777-9077 or 888-880-7884

Provides legal representation, shelter, and advocacy for survivors of intimate partner violence. Call 888-880-7884 for their 24/7 hotline.



Crisis Center
240-777-4673

A 24-hour emergency service offering crisis counseling, shelter placement, and connection to safety planning. Call 240-777-4673 anytime.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911. The safety of you and your children is the court's top priority.

Financial & Housing Assistance

Divorce can strain finances. Fortunately, Montgomery County offers support services for families in transition:



Utility Assistance & Emergency Housing

240-777-0311

Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services offers emergency financial aid for rent, utilities, and eviction prevention. Call 240-777-0311 to apply.



Bethesda Cares

301-907-9244

A nonprofit providing housing stabilization services, including rent and utility support, job counseling, and food access. Call 301-907-9244.



Upper Montgomery Assistance Network

301-926-4422

Serving Gaithersburg, Germantown, and Derwood, UMAN helps residents in financial crisis with housing and utility bills. Reach them at 301-926-4422.



Manna Food Center

301-424-1130

Nourish Now

301-330-0222

Montgomery County's primary food distribution center. They provide monthly food boxes and delivery services. Call 301-424-1130 to register.

Nourish Now offers rescued fresh food to families in need. They provide home delivery or pickup options. Call 301-330-0222 to learn more.

Reach out early. These services can help stabilize your life while your case is pending.

How We Can Help

The Law Office of LaSheena M. Williams is dedicated to guiding Maryland families through divorce with clarity and compassion. We provide legal counsel in divorce, custody, child support, and protective order cases throughout Montgomery County and other parts of Maryland.

We are here to help you with:



Negotiating custody and parenting plans



Dividing assets and handling support



Understanding your rights in high-conflict or abuse situations



Representing you in mediation or court

Next Steps & Contact

The decisions you make today will shape your tomorrow. Let us help you take the next step.

Call us today to schedule a confidential consultation.
We'll walk you through your options and give you the support you deserve.



Law Office of LaSheena M. Williams, P.C.

Serving Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Howard County, Frederick County, and surrounding areas

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