



LAW OFFICE OF
LASHEENA M. WILLIAMS

A photograph of a courtroom interior, showing ornate wood paneling, a high ceiling with decorative moldings, and rows of wooden benches with blue leather seats. A large window with a curtain is visible on the right side.

Divorce in Prince George's County, Maryland

A Practical Guide to Legal Resources, Services, and Your Path Forward

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

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Introduction



*At the Law Office of
LaSheena M. Williams,
we believe informed
clients make stronger
decisions.*

Going through a divorce is one of life's most difficult transitions. Whether you're initiating the process or responding to one, the steps ahead can feel overwhelming. In Prince George's County, the family court system provides several services to help separating spouses resolve disputes with fairness, dignity, and care.

At the Law Office of LaSheena M. Williams, we believe informed clients make stronger decisions. This guide is designed to help you understand not just the legal process, but the free and low-cost services available to you as you move forward.

Every family's situation is different. You may be facing questions about child custody, visitation, housing, or financial support. This guide outlines the resources available through the court and local organizations to help you manage both the legal and personal challenges ahead. Whether your separation is amicable or contested, there are paths to resolution—and people who can help you walk them.

Most importantly, know that this process is not just about ending a marriage—it's about building a more stable future. Our goal is to give you the clarity and confidence to take each next step with purpose, knowing you're protecting your rights, your family, and your peace of mind.

If you're feeling uncertain about where to begin, you're not alone. This guide offers more than legal definitions—it offers guidance, direction, and reassurance. With the right support, you can move forward with greater control, compassion, and the tools to rebuild your life on your terms.

LaSheena M. Williams

Filing for Divorce

What You Need to Know

To file for divorce in Maryland, at least one spouse must live in the state. In Prince George's County, you'll file your complaint with the Circuit Court in Upper Marlboro. Divorce cases are classified as either "limited" or "absolute." A limited divorce allows temporary relief like custody or support without ending the marriage. An absolute divorce legally ends the marriage and allows for property division and remarriage.



Limited Divorce

A limited divorce is a court-supervised separation. It does not end the marriage but allows the court to issue orders about child custody, support, and property use while you live apart.



Absolute Divorce

An absolute divorce is the legal end of a marriage. It permanently dissolves the relationship and allows both parties to remarry. The court can also divide property and award alimony.

After filing, you must serve the other party and wait for a response. If your spouse contests the divorce or custody issues, the case becomes part of a longer process with court-ordered scheduling, mediation, and hearings.

Service

"Serving the other party" or "Service" means legally delivering court papers to the other party to notify them of the case. It must be done by someone other than you, and proof of service is required for the court to move forward.

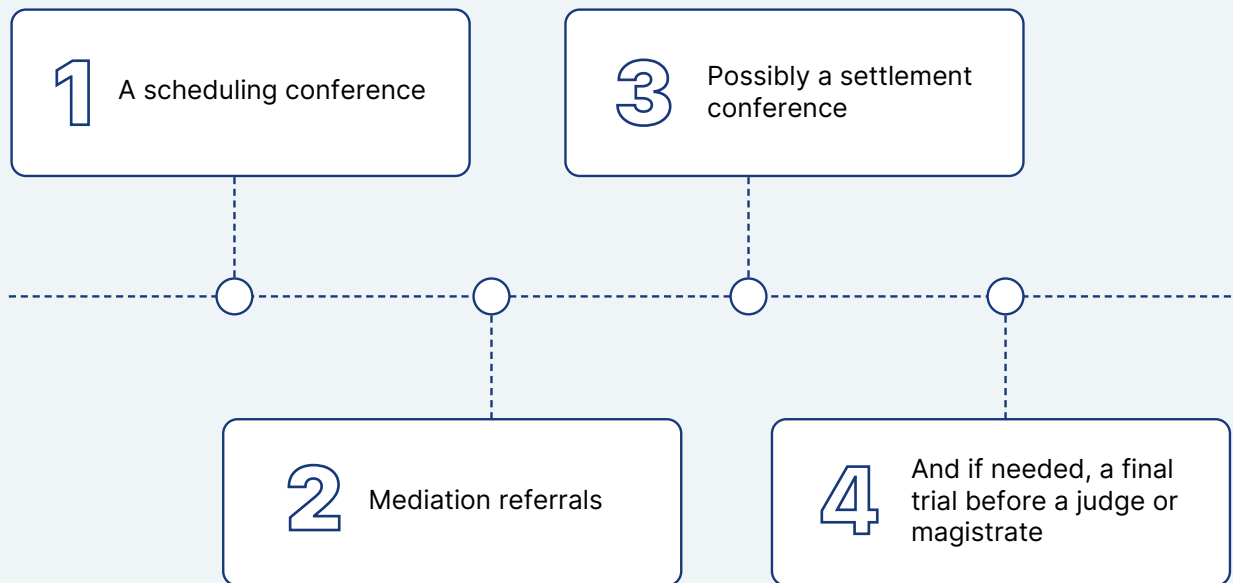
Your Divorce Timeline

What Happens When

Prince George's County uses a Differentiated Case Management (DCM) system to organize and move divorce cases efficiently. Based on your case complexity, you'll be assigned a "track" — expedited, standard, complex, or limited divorce.

For most uncontested divorces, the court aims to conclude cases within 120 to 150 days. Contested cases may take longer but must generally be resolved within 12 months (or 24 months for limited divorce).

You'll likely encounter



We'll help you navigate each step and represent you throughout.

Parenting Classes & Co-Parenting Support

If you have children, the court may require you to attend a Parenting Education Program. This is not a punishment — it's a proven way to help families transition in healthier ways.

Prince George's County partners with the National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC) to offer a two-part online seminar. This class:



Explains children's emotional needs during divorce



Offers co-parenting communication strategies



Provides a Certificate of Completion required by the court

Classes cost \$70 and are available in English and Spanish.

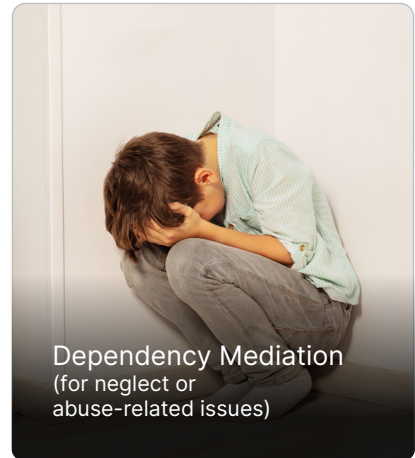
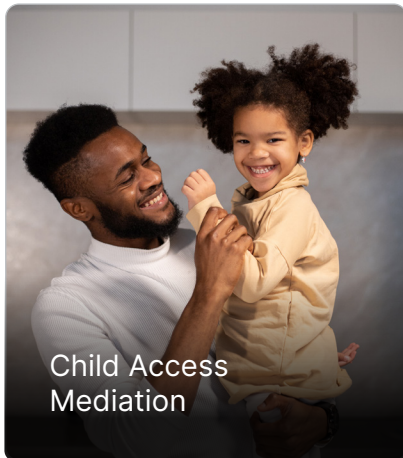
You can register at nfrcparentseminars.org.

Mediation & Family Services

Rather than leaving decisions to a judge, mediation gives you a say in your outcome.

These services are provided by trained professionals and are often required before a contested case can proceed to trial. Mediation isn't just efficient — it can help preserve communication and reduce long-term conflict.

The court's Family Support Services team often refers families to:



Supervised Visitation & Safe Transfers

If safety is a concern, or if the court orders it, you may be referred to CRCKids, a nonprofit that provides:



Photo courtesy of Children's Rights Council Facebook Page.

**Supervised visitation on Saturdays
(Hyattsville & Upper Marlboro)**



**Monitored exchanges on
Fridays and Sundays**



Photo courtesy of Children's Rights Council Facebook Page.

These visits are held at local churches and staffed by trained professionals. Orientation is required before visits can begin. Dates are prescheduled throughout the year, and both parents must arrive on time.

For more info, visit crckids.org.

Childcare During Court: Children's Waiting Room

Attending a court hearing with children can be stressful — and is often discouraged. Prince George's County offers a Children's Waiting Room at the courthouse.

Space is limited to 20 children, and you must remain onsite during your court business.

Prince George's County

Children's Waiting Room

Open Monday–Friday
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Supervised care for potty-trained
children ages 3–12

Toys, books, rest mats, and screens

Limited snacks (with parent approval)

Helpful Contacts & Local Resources



Court Support

Family Division Information Center – Forms, referrals, and procedural help (not legal advice)

Paralegal Unit – Help with filing, scheduling conferences, and case status



Legal Help

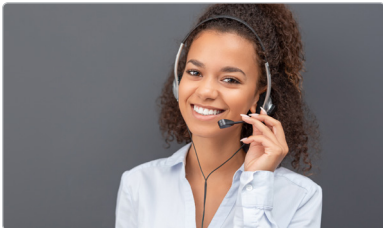
- Community Legal Services of Prince George's County
 - Maryland Legal Aid
 - Family Law Self-Help Center
-



Domestic Violence Assistance

House of Ruth: (888) 880-7884 (24/7 hotline)

Family Justice Center (Montgomery County): 240-773-0444



Domestic Violence Assistance

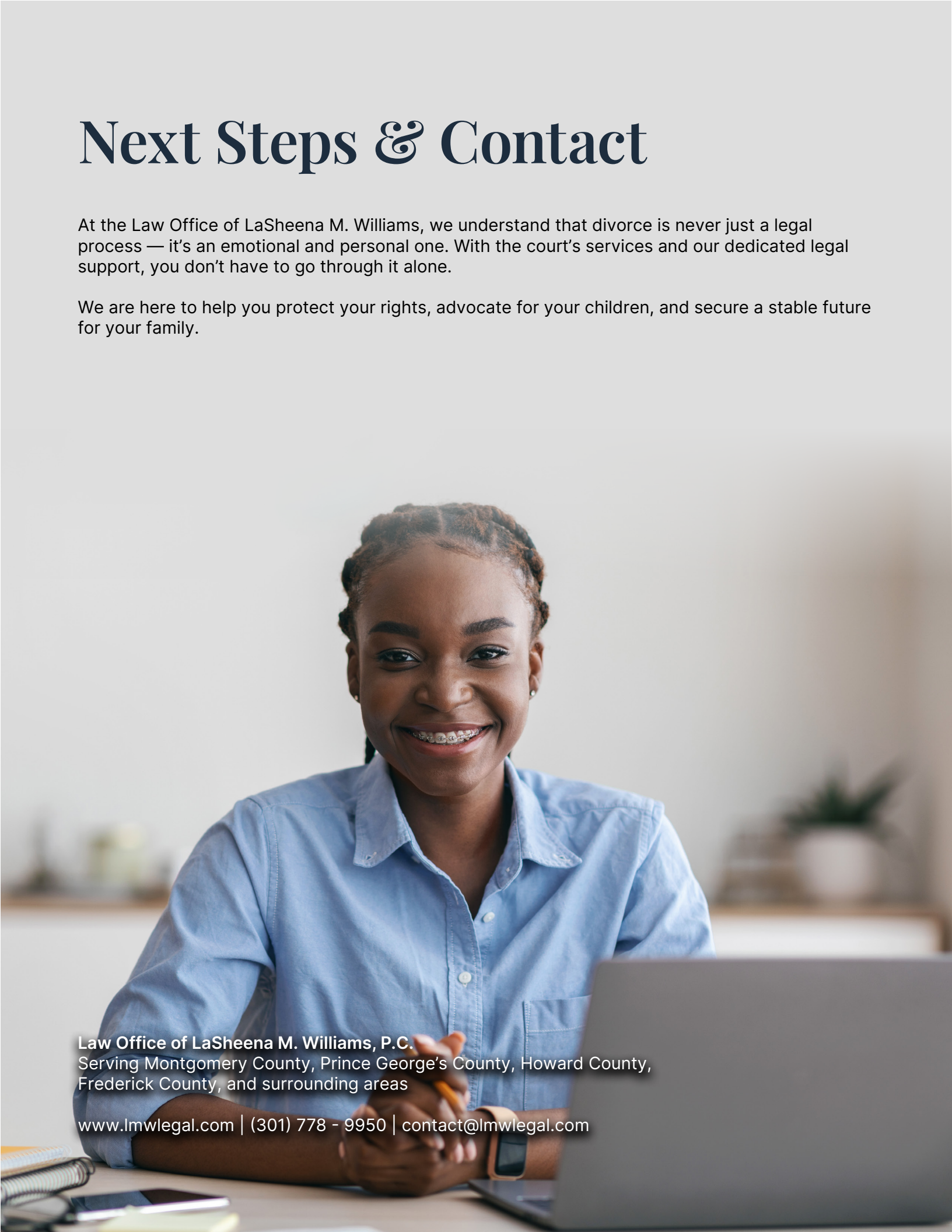
OurFamilyWizard.com: Co-parenting communication app

Books: Mom's House, Dad's House, Dinosaurs Divorce, BIFF

Next Steps & Contact

At the Law Office of LaSheena M. Williams, we understand that divorce is never just a legal process — it's an emotional and personal one. With the court's services and our dedicated legal support, you don't have to go through it alone.

We are here to help you protect your rights, advocate for your children, and secure a stable future for your family.



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