

FAMILY LAW LITIGATION STAGES

These are the general steps in a disputed family law matter in Florida that begin with a petition. Examples include divorce, paternity or post judgment modifications.



Pre-Litigation

This is the time where you evaluate the merits of your legal problem and evaluate your settlement and legal options.



Litigation Initiation

The petition is drafted describing what you are asking from the court (time-sharing with children, division of assets, financial support, etc). The request is filed with the court and served on the other party. A response to the petition and possible counter petition (additional requests to the court), is filed by the other party. Required disclosure documents are exchanged.



Pre-Mediation

This is the opportunity to request additional documents and information about your case that you need to settle, prosecute, or evaluate the merits of the case to prepare for mediation.



Mediation

In this phase the parties work to resolve their differences with the help of a trained neutral mediator.



Post Mediation Discovery

Time to prepare your case for trial. You may now need updated information and documents previously requested. In addition, you may have learned new information that requires additional investigation.



Trial

Create trial strategy, prepare evidence, witnesses, witness questions, your testimony and statements to the court. Case is presented to the judge who will make a final decision on all aspects of your case.