

Apply for Legal Assistance

ALSC has three options to apply for legal assistance:

Apply online through our statewide portal that requires you to complete an application to determine your eligibility for legal services. **Visit www.la-law.org/get-help.**

Call **TOLL FREE 1-866-ASK-ALSC** to apply for services over the telephone.

Visit a local office to apply in person.



Office Locations

- Shreveport**
720 Travis Street
Shreveport, LA 71101
- Monroe**
3016 Cameron Street
Monroe, LA 71201
- Natchitoches**
134 St. Denis Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457
- Alexandria**
1808 Jackson Street
Alexandria, LA 71301
- Lafayette**
1020 Surrey Street
Lafayette, LA 70501
- Lake Charles**
2911 Ryan Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
- Franklin**
1407 Barrow St., Ste H-1
Franklin, LA 70538

Scan
For
Legal
Aid



Funded by:



Acadiana Legal Service Corporation provides counsel and advice, legal representation and advocacy to low-income and elderly individuals. ALSC has separate law units to handle specific legal areas and has a dedicated intake process to determine eligibility and connect the eligible client with the right attorney.

Get Connected!

- www.la-law.org
- 1-(866)-ASK-ALSC**
1-(866)-275-2572
- acadianalegal**
- acadianalegalservice**



Family Law Assistance

www.la-law.org

Family Law Unit

ALSC's family law unit provides legal counsel and advice on family law legal issues involving divorce, custody and support, adoptions and domestic violence. Our priority is to stabilize the family unit and help establish a better future for families and children.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

If you or your minor child are a victim of domestic violence by a spouse or partner, contact the police and go to a safe place to ensure you and your minor child's safety first. Be sure to contact an attorney to help you evaluate your options.

Family Law Education

ALSC offers a variety of in-person and virtual clinics, legal presentations, application drives and participates in resource fairs throughout the 42 parishes in our service area.

View and schedule upcoming events at www.la-law.org/outreach.

Online Resources

232-HELP

232-help.org

Louisiana Law Help

<https://louisianalawhelp.org/>

Louisiana Coalition Against DV

<https://lcadv.org/>

Custody

Custody is always based on the best interest of the child. The best interest factors considered by the court are:

- ✓ **WHICH PARENT IS THE PRIMARY CARETAKER FOR THE CHILD,**
- ✓ **THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF THE PARENTS,**
- ✓ **THE MORAL FITNESS OF THE PARENTS,**
- ✓ **THE ABILITY OF EACH PARENT TO CARE FOR THE CHILD, AND**
- ✓ **THE ABILITY OF EACH PARENT TO FACILITATE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OTHER PARENT.**

JOINT CUSTODY

The law presumes that joint custody is in the best interest of the child. The primary caregiver will likely be named the domiciliary parent. The domiciliary parent is responsible for the day-to-day care of the child. Joint custody requires that the parents communicate with one another in making decisions and sharing information relating to the child.

SOLE CUSTODY

Sole custody is very uncommon and only granted in limited circumstances. Sole custody is only granted when the court finds that one parent is **unfit**, which usually means the parent has caused physical harm to the child. When sole custody is granted, the **unfit** parent may still be awarded supervised visitation. The **unfit** parent is not allowed to make decisions for the child.

MODIFICATION OF A CUSTODY ORDER

To change a current custody judgment, you must prove a significant change in circumstances; the proposed change is less harmful to the child than the present custody order; and the proposed change is in the best interest of the child.

Divorce

In Louisiana you can get a divorce if:

You have lived separate and apart for six months and do not have children born during the marriage, OR you have lived separate and apart for one year if children born during the marriage;

Parties are not yet separated but intend to live separately after filing for divorce;

Domestic Violence: you may get an immediate divorce without any waiting period when a protective order from abuse is obtained during marriage OR when allegations of abuse are proven at the divorce trial;

When a spouse is convicted of a felony;

When a spouse has committed adultery (ALSC does not handle divorce based on adultery).

Grandparent or Non-Parent Custody

A person who is not a parent is able to file for custody of a child if they can prove at trial that the parents are subjecting the child to substantial danger.

Child Support

Both parents owe an equal duty to support their children. The amount of support each parent owes is based on the needs of the child and the ability of the parents based on their individual income. It is not based on custodial arrangement. ALSC can generally handle child support when it is a part of divorce/custody proceedings.

Otherwise the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) which is the support enforcement agency of the State has more resources to establish, modify and enforce out of state child support order. Please see www.dcfslouisiana.gov.