

*What happens
after your
dependency case
is dismissed?*



Information on
• *Custody* • *Visitation*
• *Child Support*



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN
& THE COURTS

This information will help you understand what to expect after your dependency case is dismissed.

I have a custody order. What does that mean?

Sometimes, when a dependency case is dismissed, a judge makes a custody order, also called an “exit order.” The judge may decide it is not necessary to make an exit order, but if you did get one it goes into your family law court file. If you don’t already have a file in the family law court, the court will start one for you.

I do not have a custody order but have child support or custody and visitation issues and my juvenile case is over. What do I do?

You need to file your child support or custody and visitation case in family court. You can contact your court’s family law facilitator or self-help center for more information. Follow this link to find local contact information: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/lowcost/helpcourt.htm.

What does the custody order look like?

The order is an official court form (see opposite page for page 1 of the form), called *Custody Order—Juvenile—Final Judgment* (form JV-200).

What information is in the custody order?

A custody order lists the orders that the judge made about your child’s custody and visitation arrangements. In some cases, there may also be a restraining order.

Is the family court in the same place as the juvenile court?

It depends on where you live. In some counties, the juvenile and family courts work closely

together. They may even be in the same place and use the same clerks and judges. In other counties, the family court may be completely separate.

To find out about your county’s family and juvenile courts, visit this Web site, then look for your local court: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/trial/courtlist.htm.

Does my dependency file go to the family court?

No. When the dependency case is dismissed, the juvenile court’s file stays at the juvenile court clerk’s office. A copy of the custody order from the juvenile court is filed with the family court clerk’s office.

Will the case number be the same?

If you have a family court case open now, it may be the same family court case number.

If not, look on the custody order that you will get in the mail in about 15 days. There is a box that says “Case Numbers” (see form at right). It will list the juvenile *and* family court case numbers.

How long will the custody order for my child last?

The custody order for your child will last until your child turns 18 years old unless a judge orders a change in the custody or visitation arrangements before then.

What if I want to change any of the orders?

If you or the other parent wants to change your custody, visitation, or support orders, you must ask a judge for new orders. To do that, you must fill out and file some papers at family court. If

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you need help with your papers, go to www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp or ask if your court-house has a self-help center.

Will the judge make the changes I ask for?

A judge will change the orders only if there has been a major change in the family's circumstances and if changing the orders is best for the child.

Will the court give me or my child a lawyer for the family court case?

The court does not give parents a lawyer in family law cases. But the judge may decide to give your child a lawyer. You can also ask the judge to give your child a lawyer.

What about child support?

Child support can be complicated. Sometimes both parents owe child support to the county for the time period that the child lived away from home. If your child is now living with you, the other parent can be ordered to pay you child support. If your child is now living with the other parent, you may be ordered to pay child support to the other parent.

Who can help me with my child support?

If your juvenile dependency case is not dismissed yet, your lawyer may be able to help you.

Your court's family law facilitator can provide free help. Find your family law facilitator at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/lowcost/flf.htm.

Your local Department of Child Support Services can give you free information and may be able to help you get child support from the other parent. If you owe child support to the county or the other parent, the Department of Child Support Services may be able to help you change

your order or your payments. Look for your local Department of Child Support Services at www.childsup.cahwnet.gov/county_locations.asp.

What if I need more help?

You can hire a lawyer at your own cost. To find one, contact your county bar association and ask for a referral.

Or visit the California State Bar's Web site. Click on Public Services, then click on Finding an Attorney for Legal Advice: www.calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_home.jsp.

Or visit the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp.

Keep this information on hand.

Family Law Case Number:

Family Law Court Address:

Family Law Clerk's Telephone Number:

Family Court Services' Telephone Number:



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