

FAMILY COURT SERVICES - SERVICE LIST

Lamoreaux Justice Center, 5th Floor, Room C507
657-622-6196 (Public)

SERVICE	SCOPE OF SERVICE	TIMEFRAME	ADDITIONAL DETAILS	COST
Mediation	A confidential, court-mandated service designed to help parties reduce acrimony and develop a child-centered parenting plan that serves the best interests of their children.	Same-day service (DFC), OR appt scheduled prior to next hearing date	In domestic violence cases, safety measures include separate waiting areas, individual sessions, and the option for alleged victims to have a support person present. While mediation remains confidential, if a partial agreement is reached, parties may consent to the disclosure of unresolved issues. Recommendations for further mediation, a Child Custody Investigation, a 730 Evaluation, or the appointment of minor's counsel may also be shared with the court.	No Cost
Child Custody Investigation (CCI)	A detailed investigative report conducted by a qualified evaluator to address potential safety concerns identified by the court and provide recommendations for a parenting plan that prioritizes children's best interests.	Report provided typically 90-120 days from referral date (depending on available resources).	Only Partial Child Custody Investigation (CCI) services are available, with a limited scope and timeframe, and do not include a home visit (CA FAM § 3111). The investigation addresses up to four court-specified safety concerns, which may include Criminal History, Child Abuse/Neglect, Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, Parental Incapacity, Child Concealment, Move-Away requests, or other immediate risk factors identified by the court.	\$500 Deposit Est. Cost \$2,500 - \$4000 (billed hrly)
Emergency Investigation (EI)	An expedited risk assessment that evaluates immediate risk to the child and can provide recommendations for temporary orders, delivered through an oral report/testimony.	Testimony provided within 3-5 days from the interview date.	Emergency Investigations (EI) are conducted in compliance with CA FAM § 3064, which restricts the court from granting or modifying custody or visitation orders on an ex parte basis unless there is an immediate risk to the child. These investigations focus on court-identified safety concerns, which may include Criminal History, Child Abuse/Neglect, Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, Parental Incapacity, Child Concealment, a Short-Term Safety Plan, or other immediate risk factors specified by the court.	No Cost
Minor Interview (MI)	A report summarizing a child's interview that notes the child's preferences for contact and the proposed parenting plan.	Typically provided within 45 days of the referral.	CA FAM § 3042 and CRC 5.250 establish that a child's preference for contact and custody arrangements should be considered by the court if the child is of sufficient age and capacity to form an intelligent preference, therefore interviews are limited to 12+ years of age.	\$100 Deposit Est. Cost: \$300
Freedom from Parental Care and Control	An investigative report to assess whether terminating a parent's rights is in the child's best interest.	Filed within 7 days of hearing	A Freedom From report assesses background information, the child's circumstances, and the petitioner's ability to provide care to assist the court in determining if freeing the child for adoption is appropriate. CA FAM § 7851.5	Report fee: \$900
Stepparent Adoption (SPA)	A brief but comprehensive report provided to the court to evaluate the petitioner's suitability to adopt the child.	Report provided within 45 days after interview	This investigation determines suitability by assessing the petitioner's background, relationship with the child, and ability to meet the child's needs, ensuring that the adoption serves the child's best interests. CA FAM § 9000-9007	Petition fee: \$700
Juvenile Dependency Mediation (JDM)	A voluntary and confidential service designed to help parents devise a detailed parenting plan prior to their case being discharged.	Appointment scheduled prior to discharge hearing date	Governed by CRC 5.518, the purpose of mediation is to provide a neutral setting to resolve child-custody and visitation disputes in a collaborative and child-focused manner that preserves the safety and best interest of the child. This service is currently limited to developing a parenting plan for Exit Orders.	No Cost
Guardianship Mediation	A voluntary and confidential service designed to help parties devise a court-ordered visitation plan with children under Probate guardianship.	Appointment scheduled prior to next hearing date	Provides a neutral setting where the parties work together to create a plan for visitation that supports the child(ren)'s relationship with the person requesting visits. Mediation does not address issues such as opposing, challenging, or ending the guardianship.	No Cost