

Pro Se: Michigan Family Law Resources

This guide is intended to provide researchers with a starting point in the area of Michigan family law.

Divorce Cases in Michigan: A Systems Approach, 2nd ed., by Monika Holzer Sacks, ICLE, 2005.

- This step-by-step manual explains how to handle a divorce case in Michigan. Arranged chronologically, this book walks the reader through each stage of a divorce case while reviewing applicable statutes and court rules. Narrative sections explain the required court procedures. Forms and checklists are included.

Equitable Distribution in Divorce Settlements in Michigan: Valuation, Tax, and Other Issues, by Carolyn E. Gaston, Judy L. Ostrander, and W. Jack Keiser, NBI, 2004.

- This book discusses the key cases that define equitable distribution in Michigan. It outlines valuation issues, ethics considerations, tax considerations, and the role of mediation in a divorce case. Cases, forms, and other resources are provided.

How to File for Divorce in Michigan, by Edward A. Haman, Sphinx Pub., 2008.

- This resource simplifies the divorce process by using straightforward language in describing this inherently complex process. Also included are court forms and a glossary of terms.

Michigan Divorce Book: A Guide to Doing an Uncontested Divorce Without an Attorney – with minor children, by Michael Maran, Grand River Press, 2009.

- This common sense guide to filing for divorce yourself explains difficult concepts and provides step-by-step guidance on how to file for divorce without involving an attorney. Numerous forms are included.

Michigan Family Law 6th ed., by Marilyn J. Kelly, Judith A. Curtis, and Richard A. Roane, ICLE, 2006.

- This comprehensive work covers all aspects of family law practice in Michigan. Citations to both Michigan and federal case law are included in every chapter, as well as family law forms and examples.

Michigan Guardianship and Conservatorship Handbook, revised edition, by Hon. Phillip E. Harter and Thomas V. Trainer, ICLE, 2005.

- A step-by-step guide to Michigan guardianships and conservatorships. Covers guardianships for legally incapacitated persons, minors, and developmentally disabled persons, as well as alternatives to guardianship. Includes sample forms.

Michigan Probate Sourcebook, 3rd ed., by Lynn P. Chard and Anna Headly, ICLE, 2006.

- A compilation of all of the Michigan statutes, rules, and forms needed for probate practice. Includes EPIC and selected federal and SCAO forms.

Michigan Online Resources:

Adoption Proceedings Benchbook, by Jennifer D. Warner, with the Adoption Benchbook Advisory Committee, Michigan Judicial Institute, 2003.

<http://courts.michigan.gov/mji/resources/adoption/adoption.htm>

- Contains detailed discussions of the following topics: releases and consents; termination of parental rights; identifying the father; international adoptions; temporary, formal, and direct placements; adoption subsidies; adult adoptions; stepparent adoptions; rehearings and appeals; record keeping and release of information; and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Domestic Violence: A Guide to Civil and Criminal Proceedings, 3rd ed., by Mary M. Lovik, with the Domestic Violence Benchbook Advisory Committee, Michigan Judicial Institute, 2004.

<http://courts.michigan.gov/mji/resources/dvbook/dvbook.htm>

- This Benchbook discusses Michigan law governing domestic violence issues in the three most common courtroom contexts where it is found: personal protection proceedings, criminal proceedings, divorce, and child custody proceedings.

Friend of the Court Domestic Violence Resource Book, by Mary M. Lovik, with the Friend of the Court Domestic Violence Resource Book Advisory Committee, Michigan Judicial Institute, 2004.

http://courts.michigan.gov/mji/resources/focdv/foc_dv.htm

- Contains information about the nature and dynamics of domestic violence, community referral resources, the laws governing access to children and support as they apply in cases involving domestic violence, safety concerns, and the relationships between criminal and PPO actions and domestic relations cases involving the same parties.

Juvenile Justice Benchbook: Delinquency and Criminal Proceedings, Juvenile Justice Benchbook Advisory Committee, Michigan Judicial Institute, 2003-2008.

<http://courts.michigan.gov/mji/resources/jjbook/jjbench.htm>

- This Benchbook discusses the proceedings of juvenile cases, from delinquency to cases where a juvenile may be tried as an adult. The benchbook also covers the costs of juvenile proceedings and recordkeeping requirements.

Michigan Child Support Formula Manual and Supplement

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/manuals/focb/2008MCSFmanual.pdf>

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/manuals/focb/2008MCSFsupplement.pdf>

- Provides the complete 2008 Michigan Child Support Formula (MCSF) that is used to calculate child support in Michigan. The Supplement contains tables used to calculate a child support obligation based on the MCSF.

Michigan Court Forms:

Domestic Relations Court Forms

<http://courts.michigan.gov/SCAO/courtforms/domesticrelations/drindex.htm>

Probate Court Forms

<http://courts.michigan.gov/SCAO/courtforms/probate/gpindex.htm>

Adoption Court Forms

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/courtforms/adoptions/adindex.htm>

Juvenile Court Forms

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/courtforms/juvenile/juvindex.htm>

- Provides all State Court Administrative Office approved forms for the subject areas.

Michigan Court Self-Help Center

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/selfhelp/sitemap.htm>

- This resource provides a comprehensive self-help guide that offers general information as well as self-help in the area of domestic relations.

Michigan Family Law Journal and Resources for the Public

http://www.michbar.org/family/public_resources.cfm

- This website provides numerous articles about domestic relations law as well as a list of domestic violence resources.

Michigan Office of Child Support

http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5453_5528---,00.html

- The Michigan Department of Human Services site provides links to information on establishing paternity, enforcement of child support, interstate child support, the Michigan State Disbursement Unit, parent locator resources, forms, publications, and reports and statistics.

AssistingProSeMFL.Baker/Michaud.PDF

Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

<http://www.resourcecenter.info/>

- The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence offers a unique collection of books, videos, journals, and other media, which are useful for training, counseling, education, research, non-profit business management, program development, and activism.

State Bar of Michigan Family Law Self-Help

<http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/libraries/familylaw.cfm>

- This Self-Help site offers links to introductory materials, Michigan statutes, legal forms, Michigan guides, lawyer referral services, and other public resources pertaining to family law.

State Court Administrative Office Brochures and Pamphlets

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/pamphlets/index.htm#focpubs>

- This site offers resources such as informational brochures and pamphlets produced and/or distributed by the State Court Administrative Office. These brochures cover information pertaining to custody, parenting time, child support, and other domestic relations matters.

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