

**Paralegal  Course Outlines**

TITLE: Family Law  
(PARA 320)

- OBJECTIVES:
1. To study family law concepts of marriage, divorce, annulment, adoption, child custody, property settlements, etc.
  2. To understand that family law is based on state law, and to explore some of the differences and similarities among the states, especially Minnesota and North Dakota.

CREDITS: 3 semester credit hours

INSTRUCTION: Lecture; research projects; drafting pleadings

EVALUATION: Tests; research assignments; drafting exercises

OUTLINE:

	<u>Time</u>
I. Practicing family law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Sources of law</li> <li>B. Research assignments</li> <li>C. Checklists, forms, and manuals</li> <li>D. Ethics in family law</li> <li>E. Interviewing the family law client</li> </ul>	6 hours
II. Contracts and marriage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Breach of promise to marry</li> <li>B. Contracts restricting marriage</li> <li>C. Antenuptial agreements</li> </ul>	5 hours
III. Marriage formation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Ceremonial marriages</li> <li>B. Common-law marriages</li> </ul>	2 hours
IV. Annulments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Grounds</li> <li>B. Effects of annulment</li> </ul>	2 hours
V. Legal separations	2 hours

- A. Grounds
  - B. Procedure
  - C. Distinguished from divorce
  - D. Remedies
- VI. Child custody 4 hours
- A. Types of custody arrangements
  - B. Best interests standard
  - C. Factors in awarding custody
  - D. UCCJA and PKPA
  - E. Visitation
  - F. Modification of orders
- VII. Child Support 4 hours
- A. Standards and guidelines
  - B. Modification of orders
  - C. Enforcement
- VIII. Divorce 9 hours
- A. History
  - B. Fault vs. no-fault grounds
  - C. Procedure
  - D. Judgments and enforcement
  - E. Tax consequences of divorce and separation
- IX. Legal rights of women 4 hours
- A. Common law vs. modern view
  - B. Property rights
  - C. Name change
  - D. Reproductive rights
  - E. Abortion
  - F. Battered wife and marital rape
- X. Paternity proceedings 1 hour
- A. Illegitimacy and related issues
  - B. Proceedings to determine paternity
  - C. Support and other remedies
- XI. Legal status of children 2 hours
- A. Majority and emancipation
  - B. Contract and property rights
  - C. Neglect, abuse, and dependency
- XII. Adoption 2 hours
- A. Types of adoptions
  - B. Who may adopt and be adopted
  - C. Procedure

D. Effects of adoption

XIII. Surrogacy and modern issues of parenting

2 hours