

Family Court Case Types & Definitions

| Case Type | Definition |
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| Termination of Parental Rights | Petition to permanently end a parent's rights when a child in foster care |
| Child Protective | Petitions claiming a child is neglected or abused |
| Abuse | Petition claiming someone responsible for a child's care hurt the child or allowed someone else to hurt the child |
| Neglect | Petition claiming someone responsible for a child's care did not provide the minimum amount of care needed |
| Juvenile | Petitions to handle disobedient or violent children |
| Designated Felony | Petition claiming a child between the ages of 7 – 17 committed a serious violent act that would be a crime if committed by an adult |
| Juvenile Delinquency | Petition claiming a child between the ages of 7 – 17 committed an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult |
| Person in Need of Supervision | Petition asking for the Court's help in supervising a disobedient child under the age of 18 |
| Adoption/Foster Care | Petitions to find a temporary home (foster care) or permanent home (adoption) for a child that needs parental care |
| Adoption | Petition to make someone the new legal parent of a child |
| Adoption Certificate | Petition to decide if someone is qualified to adopt a child |
| Adoption Surrender | Petition for someone to voluntarily end their rights as a child's parent |
| Destitute Child | Petition to assist a child who is not neglected or abused but is suffering from a lack of food, clothing, shelter, or medical care |
| Foster Care Placement | Petition to find a temporary home for a child who was removed from their home by a court order or with a parent's consent |
| Guardianship | Petition to appoint someone to take legal responsibility for a child's care |
| Family Offense | Petition for an order of protection when a person or their child are hurt, threatened, harassed, or stalked by someone who is related by blood or marriage (even if separated or divorced), or is an intimate partner, or has a child with the other person |
| Custody/Visitation | Petition to decide who is responsible for a child's care and who is allowed to visit a child |
| Support-Related | Petitions to decide who is responsible to support a child or spouse and the amount they must pay |
| Paternity | Petition to determine who a child's father is |
| IVD | A state agency helps the person applying (petitioner) with their case |
| Non-IVD | The person applying (petitioner) does not get help from a state agency |
| Support | Petition to get support or health insurance payments for a child or spouse |
| IVD | A state agency helps the person applying (petitioner) with their case |
| Non-IVD | The person applying (petitioner) does not get help from a state agency |
| Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) | Petition to get child support or health insurance payments from someone who lives outside of New York State |
| IVD | A state agency helps the person applying (petitioner) with their case |
| Non-IVD | The person applying (petitioner) does not get help from a state agency |
| Other | Miscellaneous case type |
| Permanency Hearings | Hearing held every 6 months to review the plan for a child who was removed from their home by a court order or with their parent's consent |