



[Paternity and Support](#)

Domestic Relations

570.327.2395

Lycoming County Courthouse

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

[Custody and Divorce](#)

Family Court

570.327.2433

Lycoming County Courthouse

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

[Protection from Abuse](#)

Wise Options

570.323.8167

815 West Fourth Street

Williamsport, PA 17701

**LYCOMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**48 WEST THIRD STREET**

**WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701**

**PHONE: 570.327.2200**

**Fax: 570.327.2293**

Forms are available online by visiting the Lycoming County Court Administration website:

[www.lyco.org](http://www.lyco.org)

- ◆ Courts Tab
- ◆ Court Administration

Forms are also available at the Lycoming County Courthouse:

- ◆ Family Court - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor
- ◆ Court Administration—4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Make sure you update the Court with any changes in address or telephone number by filing a new Entry of Appearance of a Self-Represented Party

*NPLS provides free legal help with civil legal matters including family and domestic issues. Depending on the legal problem, NPLS will provide advice by telephone or an in-person appointment. This help is available to low income individuals and households who are found to qualify. To apply for legal services, call 1.877.953.4250, Monday-Friday, 9:00—11:30 or 1:30—4:00.*

County of Lycoming



Information on Self-Help Forms and Instructions for:

**CUSTODY**

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**DIVORCE**

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**PROTECTION FROM ABUSE**

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**SUPPORT & PATERNITY**

**Note:** *Nothing contained herein should be viewed as rendering legal advice. This pamphlet is designed to provide direction to a person that is representing him or herself. If you need assistance with the forms or need help with legal questions, it is recommended that you consult with a licensed attorney.*

## CUSTODY

A custody action begins by filing a complaint for custody. If you have already had an order entered in your case, you must make any future filings to the original case number.

Initial custody complaints and petitions to modify are scheduled for a conference to be held in Family Court. A conference is not a time to bring exhibits, witnesses, or your children to testify. A pre-trial conference is not the time for witnesses or evidence. If your case is not resolved at the pre-trial conference, a custody trial will be scheduled. At the custody trial, you must present witnesses and evidence.

Petitions for contempt and special relief are scheduled in front of a judge. This is a hearing, and you must be prepared with witnesses and evidence.



## CHILD AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT

Child and spousal support actions are initiated by filing a complaint at the Domestic Relations Section (DRS). You may stop at the DRS Office at the Lycoming County Courthouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, or call the DRS Office at 570.327.2395, to obtain general information. There is a website to obtain additional information, including access to your specific support case, at [www.childsupport.state.pa.us](http://www.childsupport.state.pa.us) or you can call 1.800.932.0211.

## PATERNITY

Establishing paternity means proving the identity of the father of the child. In Pennsylvania, a child born to a mother who is married is presumed to be the child of the husband. If a mother is unmarried, the parties can sign a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity at the hospital. The Domestic Relations Section (DRS) can assist a parent with a petition to establish paternity. Paternity testing costs are usually assessed to the father. If DRS is unable to help you, you may need to consult an attorney and file a private action.

Contact the DRS at 570.327.2395 or at the Lycoming County Courthouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 48 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 for more information.

## DIVORCE

A divorce legally ends your marriage. It is recommended that you at least speak with an attorney who can advise you of your legal rights.

If you decide to represent yourself in a divorce action, self-help forms and instructions can be found on the County website at [www.lyco.org](http://www.lyco.org), Courts, Court Administration.

## PROTECTION FROM ABUSE

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you can get free legal assistance to get a civil protection from abuse order (PFA). Other free services, such as counseling and emergency housing, are also available. You should begin by contacting Wise Options at 570.323.8167 or at 815 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

***There are filing fees associated with custody and divorce actions. If you are unable to pay the fee, you can file an In Forma Pauperis form that seeks to have the fee waived.***