

Court-Date First Steps

Quick guide for hearings, paperwork, and family-court preparation

Use this guide when the pressure is a hearing, filing deadline, clinic visit, parenting-plan question, or a court-related call you need to make soon.

Gather first

- Hearing notices, case numbers, and any existing orders you already have.
- A short timeline with key dates, missed exchanges, filings, or notices.
- A list of questions you need answered in plain language before you leave the call or clinic.

Use the best doorway

- Start with the quick finder on the Family Hub if you are not sure which lane you need.
- Use Maine court forms and parental-rights resources for official information.
- Use legal-aid or clinic links when the question requires actual assistance, not just a website.

Keep it simple

- Bring only the most important papers first.
- Write down what the next required step is before you end the call.
- Ask for dates, names, and deadlines clearly.

Then use the record layer if needed

- If the bigger issue is why the process is so hard to navigate, use the dashboard and sources pages after the immediate step is covered.

Related site pages: [resources.html](#), [briefs.html](#), [dashboard.html](#), [story-intake.html](#)