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Charts

Chart 1: *Alimony/Spousal Support Factors*

STATE	Statutory List**	Marital Fault Not Considered	Standard of Living	Status as Custodial Parent Considered
Alabama ALA. CODE § 30-2-50 ALA. CODE § 30-2-55			x	
Alaska ALASKA STAT. § 25.24.160	x	x	x	x
Arizona ARIZ. REV. STAT. ANN. § 25-319	x	x	x	x
Arkansas ARK. CODE ANN. § 9-12-312 ARK. CODE ANN. § 9-12-314		x		
California CAL. FAM. CODE § 4330	x	x	x	
Colorado COLO. REV. STAT. § 14-10-114 COLO. REV. STAT. § 14-10-122	x	x	x	x
Connecticut CONN. GEN. STAT. § 466-82	x		x	x
Delaware DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 13 § 1512	x	x	x	x
District of Columbia D.C. CODE § 16-913 D.C. CODE § 16-916	x	x	x	
Florida FLA. STAT. § 61.08	x		x	
Georgia GA. CODE ANN. § 19-6-1	x		x	
Hawaii HAW. REV. STAT. § 580-47	x	x	x	x
Idaho IDAHO CODE ANN. § 32-705	x			
Illinois 750 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/504	x	x	x	x
Indiana IND. CODE § 31-15-7-1	x	x		
Iowa IOWA CODE § 598.21A	x	x	x	x
Kansas KAN. STAT. ANN. § 60-1610		x		
Kentucky KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.200	x	x	x	
Louisiana	x			x
Maine ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 19, § 951-A	x	x		
Maryland MD. CODE ANN., FAM. LAW § 11-101	x		x	
Massachusetts MASS. GEN. LAWS. ch. 208, § 34	x		x	
Michigan MICH. COMP. LAW § 552.27			x	
Minnesota MINN. STAT. § 518.552	x	x	x	x
Mississippi MISS. CODE ANN. § 93-5-23				
Missouri MO. REV. STAT. § 452.335	x		x	x
Montana MONT. CODE ANN. § 40-4-203	x	x	x	x
Nebraska NEB. REV. STAT. § 42-369	x	x	x	x
Nevada NEV. REV. STAT. § 125.180		x	x	x
New Hampshire N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 458:31	x		x	x

Chart 1: *Continued*

STATE	Statutory List**	Marital Fault Not Considered	Standard of Living	Status as Custodial Parent Considered
New Jersey N.J. STAT. ANN. § 2A:34-23	x	x	x	x
New Mexico	x	x	x	
New York N.Y. FAM. CT. ACT § 464	x		x	x
North Carolina N.C. GEN. STAT. § 50-16.3A	x		x	
North Dakota N.D. CENT. CODE § 14-05-24.1				
Ohio OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3105.18	x	x	x	x
Oklahoma OKLA. STAT. tit. 43, § 134		x		x
Oregon OR. REV. STAT. § 107.135	x	x	x	x
Pennsylvania 23 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 3701	x		x	
Rhode Island R.I. GEN. LAWS § 15-5-16	x		x	x
South Carolina S.C. CODE ANN. § 20-3-130	x		x	x
South Dakota S.D. CODIFIED LAW § 25-7-1			x	
Tennessee TENN. CODE ANN. § 36-5-101	x		x	x
Texas TEX. FAM. CODE ANN. § 8.051	x		x	x
Utah UTAH CODE ANN. § 30-3-5	x		x	x
Vermont VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 15, § 752	x	x	x	x
Virginia VA. CODE ANN. § 20-107.1	x		x	
Washington WASH. REV. CODE § 26.09.090	x	x	x	
West Virginia W. VA. CODE § 48-8-101	x			
Wisconsin WIS. STAT. § 767.56	x	x	x	x
Wyoming WYO. STAT. ANN. § 20-2-116				

** Although there is a statutory list of factors, the court may in its discretion consider other factors under the particular circumstances of the case.

Chart 2: *Custody Criteria*

STATE	Statutory Guidelines*	Child's Wishes	Joint Custody*	Cooperative Parent	Domestic Violence	Health
Alabama	x	x	x		x	
Alaska	x	x	x		x	
Arizona	x	x	x	x	x	x
Arkansas					x	
California	x	x		x	x	x
Colorado	x	x	x[1]	x	x	x
Connecticut		x	x			
Delaware	x	x	x		x	x
District of Columbia	x	x	x	x	x	x
Florida	x	x	x	x	x	x
Georgia	x	x	x		x	
Hawaii	x	x[2]	x[5]		x	
Idaho	x	x	x		x	x
Illinois	x	x	x	x	x	x
Indiana	x	x	x	x	x	x
Iowa	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kansas	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kentucky	x	x	x	x	x	x
Louisiana	x	x	x		x	
Maine	x	x	x		x	
Maryland		x	x	x	x	x
Massachusetts			x		x	
Michigan	x	x	x	x	x	x
Minnesota	x	x	x		x	x
Mississippi	x		x			x
Missouri	x	x	x	x	x	x
Montana	x	x	x		x	
Nebraska	x	x	x		x	x
Nevada	x	x	x	x	x	
New Hampshire	x	x	x		x	
New Jersey	x	x	x	x	x	x
New Mexico	x	x	x	x	x	x
New York		x			x	
North Carolina		x[2]	x		x	x
North Dakota	x	x	x	x[3]	x	x
Ohio	x	x	x[1]		x	x
Oklahoma	x	x	x	x	x	
Oregon	x	x	x	x	x	
Pennsylvania	x	x	x	x	x	x
Rhode Island		x	x	x	x	x
South Carolina		x	x	x	x	x
South Dakota		x	x	x	x	
Tennessee	x	x[4]	x[1]	x	x	
Texas	x	x	x	x	x	x
Utah	x	x	x	x		
Vermont	x		x		x	
Virginia	x	x[2]	x	x	x	x
Washington	x	x			x	x
West Virginia	x	x	x		x	
Wisconsin	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wyoming	x	x	x	x	x	x

* Court in the exercise of its sound discretion shall consider the best interests and welfare of the minor child.

1. Has changed terminology away from "custody."
2. Considered if child is old enough.
3. By case law.
4. The court must listen to the reasonable preferences of a child age twelve or older, giving greater weight to the preferences of older children. The court may at its discretion hear the reasonable preference of children under the age of twelve.
5. Emphasizes "best interest of child."

Chart 3: *Child Support Guidelines**

STATE	Income Share	Percent of Income	Extraordinary Medical Deduction	Child-Care Deduction	College Support	Shared Parenting Time Offset
Alabama ALA. CODE § 30-3-1	x	x	x p	x m	x	
Alaska ALASKA STAT. § 25.27.060		x	x m	x	x	x
Arizona ARIZ. REV. STAT. ANN. § 25-320	x		x m	x p		
Arkansas ARK. CODE ANN. § 9-12-312		x	x d	x d		
California CAL. FAM. CODE § 4001 CAL. FAM. CODE § 3585	x		x m	x m		x
Colorado COLO. REV. STAT. § 14-10-115	x		x m	x m		x
Connecticut CONN. GEN. STAT. § 466-81	x		x d		x	
Delaware DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 13 § 1513			x m	x m		x**
District of Columbia D.C. CODE § 16-916.01		x	x d	x	x	x
Florida FLA. STAT. § 61.30	x		x p	x m		
Georgia GA. CODE ANN. § 19-6-15		x	x p	x m		
Hawaii HAW. REV. STAT. § 5760-7	x	x	x m[3]	x	x	x
Idaho IDAHO CODE ANN. § 32-706	x		x m	x p		x
Illinois 750 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/505		x			x	
Indiana IND. CODE § 31-16-6-1	x		x p	x m	x	x
Iowa IOWA CODE § 598.21		x		x m	x	x
Kansas KAN. STAT. ANN. § 38-1595	x			x m		x
Kentucky KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.212	x		x m	x p		
Louisiana	x		x m	x m		
Maine ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 19, § 2007	x		x m	x m		
Maryland MD. CODE ANN., FAM. L. § 12-204	x		x m	x m		x
Massachusetts MASS. GEN. LAWS. ch. 208, § 28		x	x m	x	x	
Michigan MICH. COMP. LAW § 722.27	x		x m	x m	x	x
Minnesota MINN. STAT. § 518.17		x		x m		x
Mississippi MISS. CODE ANN. § 43-19-101		x	x d	x d		
Missouri MO. REV. STAT. § 452.340	x		x	x	x	x
Montana MONT. CODE ANN. § 40-4-204			x m	x m		
Nebraska NEB. REV. STAT. § 42-364	x		x d	x m		x
Nevada		x	x m	x d		x
New Hampshire N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 458:4		x	x d		x	
New Jersey N.J. STAT. ANN. § 2A:17-56.23a	x		x m	x m	x	x
New Mexico N.M. STAT. § 40-4-11.1	x		x p	x m		x
New York N.Y. DOM REL. § 240	x		x m	x m	x	
North Carolina N.C. GEN. STAT. § 52C-2.201	x		x p	x m		x
North Dakota N.D. CENT. CODE § 14-09-09.7		x		x d		
Ohio OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3109.05	x		x p	x m		x p

* Chart prepared by Laura W. Morgan from her treatise, *Child Support Guidelines: Interpretation and Application*.

STATE	Income Share	Percent of Income	Extraordinary Medical Deduction	Child-Care Deduction	College Support	Shared Parenting Time Offset
Oklahoma OKLA. STAT. tit. 43, § 119	x		x a	x m		x
Oregon OR. REV. STAT. § 107.108	x		x p	x m	x	x
Pennsylvania 23 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 4322	x		x m/d	x m		
Rhode Island R.I. GEN. LAWS § 15-5-16.2	x		x d	x m		
South Carolina S.C. CODE ANN. § 20-3-160	x		x d	x m	x	
South Dakota S.D. CODIFIED LAW § 25-7-6.2	x		x d	x d		
Tennessee TENN. CODE ANN. § 36-5-101		x	x m		x[1]	x[2]
Texas TEX. FAM. CODE ANN. § 154.121		x	x m	x d		
Utah UTAH CODE ANN. § 30-3-5	x		x m	x m/p		x
Vermont VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 15, § 654	x		x m	x m		x
Virginia VA. CODE ANN. § 20-108.2	x		x a	x a		x
Washington WASH. REV. CODE § 26.09.170	x		x m	x m	x	
West Virginia W. VA. CODE § 48-6-301	x		x m	x m		x
Wisconsin WIS. STAT. § 767.57		x	x m	x d		
Wyoming WYO. STAT. ANN. § 20-2-307	x		x d	x d		x

** = by case law
a = mandatory add-ons
m = mandatory deduction
p = permissive deduction
d = deviation factor

1. May be voluntarily agreed by the parties, in which case it is contractually enforceable thereafter, but otherwise may not be imposed by the court. However, an obligor parent may be required to contribute during a child's minority to an educational trust fund, which would be used for college costs postminority.

2. Support may be increased or decreased it the obligor spends more or less than 80 days (the putative normal amount of time) with a child.

3. Credit given for actual cost of health care insurance premium paid for children.

Chart 4: *Grounds for Divorce and Residency Requirements*

STATE	No Fault Sole Ground	No Fault Added to Traditional	Incompatibility	Living Separate and Apart	Judicial Separation	Durational Requirements
Alabama ALA. CODE § 30-2-1 ALA. CODE § 30-2-5		x	x	2 years	x	6 months
Alaska ALASKA STAT. § 25.24.200	x	x	x	2 years	x	6 months
Arizona ARIZ. REV. STAT. ANN. § 25-327	x	x[1]			x	90 days
Arkansas		x		18 months	x	60 days
California	x				x	6 months*
Colorado	x				x	90 days
Connecticut CONN. GEN. STAT. § 466-51		x		18 months		1 year
Delaware DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 13 § 1505		x	x	6 months		6 months
District of Columbia D.C. CODE § 16-904	x			1 year	x	6 months
Florida	x					6 months
Georgia GA. CODE ANN § 19-5-3		x				6 months
Hawaii HAW. REV. STAT. § 580-41				2 years[3]	x	6 months[4]
Idaho IDAHO CODE ANN. § 32-603		x			x	6 weeks
Illinois 750 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/401		x		2 years	x	90 days
Indiana IND. CODE § 31-15-2-3			x		x	60 days
Iowa IOWA CODE § 598.19	x				x	1 year
Kansas KAN. STAT. ANN. § 60-1601			x		x	60 days
Kentucky KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.140	x			60 days	x	180 days
Louisiana		x[1]		6 months[2]	x	6 months
Maine ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 19, § 902		x			x	6 months
Maryland MD. CODE ANN., FAM. LAW § 11-103		x		1 year	x	1 year
Massachusetts MASS. GEN. LAWS. ch. 208, § 1A		x			x	None
Michigan MICH. COMP. LAW § 552.6	x				x	6 months
Minnesota	x				x	180 days
Mississippi MISS. CODE ANN. § 93-5-2		x				6 months
Missouri MO. REV. STAT. § 452.305		x		1–2 years	x	90 days
Montana MONT. CODE ANN. § 40-4-104	x		x	180 days	x	90 days
Nebraska NEB. REV. STAT. § 42-365	x				x	1 year

STATE	No Fault Sole Ground	No Fault Added to Traditional	Incompatibility	Living Separate and Apart	Judicial Separation	Durational Requirements
Nevada NEV. REV. STAT. § 125.130			x	1 year	x	6 weeks
New Hampshire N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 458:7-a		x		2 years		1 year
New Jersey N.J. STAT. ANN. § 2A:34-2		x		18 months		1 year
New Mexico N.M. STAT. § 40-4-1		x	x		x	6 months
New York N.Y. DOM. REL. § 170		x		1 year	x	1 year
North Carolina		x		1 year	x	6 months
North Dakota N.D. CENT. CODE § 14-05-03		x			x	6 months
Ohio OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3105.01		x	x	1 year		6 months
Oklahoma OKLA. STAT. tit. 43, § 601-201			x		x	6 months
Oregon OR. REV. STAT. § 107.105	x				x	6 months
Pennsylvania 23 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 3104		x		2 years		6 months
Rhode Island R.I. GEN. LAWS § 15-5-1 R.I. GEN. LAWS § 15-5-2		x		3 years	x	1 year
South Carolina S.C. CODE ANN. § 20-7-420		x		1 year	x	3 months (both residents)
South Dakota S.D. CODIFIED LAW § 25-4-17.2		x			x	None
Tennessee TENN. CODE ANN. § 36-5-2201		x		2 years	x	6 months
Texas TEX. FAM. CODE ANN. § 7.006		x		3 years		6 months
Utah UTAH CODE ANN. § 30-3-5		x		3 years	x	90 days
Vermont VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 15B, § 201		x		6 months		6 months
Virginia VA. CODE ANN. § 20-91		x		1 year	x	6 months
Washington WASH. REV. CODE § 26.09.030	x					1 year
West Virginia W. VA. CODE § 48-5-201		x		1 year	x	1 year
Wisconsin WIS. STAT. § 767.01	x				x	6 months
Wyoming WYO. STAT. ANN. § 20-2-104		x	x		x	60 days

* California requires domicile as distinguished from residency for jurisdictional purposes.

1. Covenant marriage statutes establish specific grounds for divorce for covenant marriages.
2. Two years for covenant marriages.
3. Grounds are either marriage irretrievably broken or two years' separation.
4. Six months in state and three months in circuit waiting for divorce itself, but can file as soon as residency established.

Chart 5: *Property Division*

STATE	Community Property	Only Marital Divided	Statutory List of Factors	Nonmonetary Contributions	Economic Misconduct	Contribution to Education
Alabama ALA. CODE § 30-2-51 ALA. CODE § 30-2-52		x		x		x
Alaska ALASKA STAT. § 25.24.160	x[1]		x	x	x	
Arizona ARIZ. REV. STAT. ANN. § 25-327 ARIZ. REV. STAT. ANN. § 25-318	x				x	x
Arkansas ARK. CODE ANN. § 9-12-315		x	x	x		
California	x		x	x	x	x
Colorado COLO. REV. STAT. § 14-10-113		x	x	x	x	
Connecticut CONN. GEN. STAT. § 466-81			x	x	x	x
Delaware DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 13 § 1513		x	x	x	x	x
District of Columbia D.C. CODE § 16-910		x	x	x	x	
Florida FLA. STAT. § 61.075		x	x	x	x	x
Georgia GA. CODE ANN. § 19-5-7		x				
Hawaii HAW. REV. STAT. § 580-47		x[2]	x[3]	x[2]	x[3]	
Idaho IDAHO CODE ANN. § 32-712	x		x			
Illinois 750 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/503		x	x	x	x	
Indiana IND. CODE § 31-15-7-4		x	x	x	x	x
Iowa IOWA CODE § 598.21			x	x	x	x
Kansas K.S.A. § 60-1601 (b) (1) K.S.A. § 23-201			x		x	
Kentucky KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 403.190		x	x	x	x	x
Louisiana	x					
Maine ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 19, § 953		x	x	x	x	
Maryland MD. CODE ANN., FAM. LAW § 8-203		x	x	x	x	
Massachusetts MASS. GEN. LAWS. ch. 179, § 15			x	x	x	x
Michigan MICH. COMP. LAW § 552.19		x		x	x	x
Minnesota MINN. STAT. § 518.58		x	x	x	x	
Mississippi MISS. CODE ANN. § 93-5-23		x	x	x	x	x
Missouri MO. REV. STAT. § 452.330		x	x	x	x	x
Montana MONT. CODE ANN. § 40-4-202			x	x	x	
Nebraska NEB. REV. STAT. § 42-365		x		x		
Nevada NEV. REV. STAT. § 379.145	x	x		x	x	x
New Hampshire N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 458:16-a			x	x	x	x
New Jersey N.J. STAT. ANN. § 2A:34-23.1		x	x	x	x	x
New Mexico N.M. STAT. § 40-4-3	x					
New York N.Y. DOM REL. § 234		x	x	x	x	x
North Carolina N.C. GEN. STAT. § 50-20		x	x	x	x	x

STATE	Community Property	Only Marital Divided	Statutory List of Factors	Nonmonetary Contributions	Economic Misconduct	Contribution to Education
North Dakota N.D. CENT. CODE § 15-05-24				x	x	x
Ohio OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3105.71						
Oklahoma OKLA. STAT. tit. 43, § 121		x		x	x	
Oregon OR. REV. STAT. § 107.105				x	x	x
Pennsylvania 23 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 3502		x	x	x	x	x
Rhode Island R.I. GEN. LAWS § 15-5-16.1		x	x	x	x	x
South Carolina S.C. CODE ANN. § 20-7-472		x	x	x	x	x
South Dakota S.D. CODIFIED LAW § 25-4-44				x	x	
Tennessee TENN. CODE ANN. § 36-4-121		x	x	x	x	x
Texas TEX. FAM. CODE ANN. § 7.001	x				x	
Utah UTAH CODE ANN. § 30-3-5						
Vermont VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 15, § 752			x	x	x	x
Virginia VA. CODE ANN. § 20-107.3		x	x	x	x	x
Washington WASH. REV. CODE § 26.09.080	x		x			
West Virginia W. VA. CODE § 48-7-103		x	x	x	x	x
Wisconsin WIS. STAT. § 767.61	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wyoming WYO. STAT. ANN. § 20-2-114		x	x	x		

1. The parties by contract can agree to make some or all of their martial property community property.
2. During marriage nonmonetary contributions do not affect property division nor does the lack of them.
3. No statutory provisions; case law is mixed.

Chart 6: *Third-Party Visitation*

STATE	Stepparents	Grandparents—Death of their child	Grandparents—Child Divorce	Out of Wedlock	Any Interested Party
Alabama		x	x		
Alaska	x[4]	x	x	x	
Arizona	x[1]	x	x	x	
Arkansas		x	x		
California	x	x	x		
Colorado		x	x	x	
Connecticut	x	x	x	x	
Delaware	x		x		
District of Colombia					
Florida		x	x	x	
Georgia		x	x		
Hawaii	x		x		
Idaho			x	x	
Illinois	x	x		x	
Indiana	x	x	x	x	
Iowa					
Kansas	x	x	x	x	
Kentucky		x	x	x	
Louisiana		x	x		
Maine	x	x	x	x	
Maryland		x	x		
Massachusetts		x	x		
Michigan	x	x	x		
Minnesota	x	x	x	x	
Mississippi		x	x		
Missouri		x	x	x	
Montana		x	x	x	
Nebraska	x	x	x		
Nevada		x	x	x	
New Hampshire	x	x	x	x	
New Jersey	x	x	x	x	
New Mexico	x	x	x	x	
New York	x	x	x	x	
North Carolina			x		
North Dakota	x	x	x		
Ohio	x	x	x	x	x[2]
Oklahoma		x	x	x	
Oregon	x	x	x	x	
Pennsylvania		x	x		
Rhode Island		x	x		
South Carolina		x	x	x	
South Dakota		x	x	x	
Tennessee	x		x		
Texas	x	x	x	x	
Utah	x	x	x	x	
Vermont		x	x		
Virginia					x[3]
Washington	x		x		
West Virginia		x	x	x	
Wisconsin		x	x		
Wyoming	x	x	x		x

1. New in-loco-parentis bill allows visitation and in rare cases custody to these in loco parentis.
2. Extends only to relatives of minor child.
3. This includes any relative or a stepparent.
4. Only if stepparent is established as child's "psychological parent" under case law.

Chart 7: *Appointment Laws in Adoption, Guardianship, Unmarried Parent, and Divorce Cases**

STATE	Adoption	Guardianship	Unmarried Parent	Divorce
Alabama	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Alaska	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statutory reference	Att'y or GAL- Discretionary -Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Arizona	Discretionary	Discretionary; Req'd to terminate guardianship	No statutory reference	Att'y - Discretionary - Att'y
Arkansas	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statutory reference	Att'y - Discretionary - Att'y
California	No statutory reference	Discretionary; Req'd if abuse or neglect	Req'd if minor is a party	Hybrid - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Colorado	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Other Prof.
Connecticut	Discretionary	Discretionary; Req'd if abuse or neglect	No statutory reference	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Other Prof.
Delaware	Required if Div of Fam Services	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Other Prof.
District of Columbia	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statutory reference	GAL - Discretionary Att'y
Florida	Req'd if abandoned infant	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL req'd if abuse involved - GAL - Att'y/Certified Citizen
Georgia	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Hawaii	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary Att'y/ Gov't/Att'y/Professional
Idaho	No statute	Required	No statute	Att'y - Discretionary - Att'y
Illinois	Required	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y - Hybrid or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/ Gov't/Att'y
Indiana	No statutory reference	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary Att'y/CASA trained
Iowa	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary Att'y
Kansas	Discretionary	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Professional
Kentucky	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	No statutory reference	GAL - Discretionary Att'y
Louisiana	Req'd if father contests	Discretionary	No statutory reference	Att'y - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y
Maine	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statute	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Professional
Maryland	Req'd if minor over 10	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Massachusetts	Required if contested	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Disinterested Person
Michigan	No statutory reference	Discretionary	Discretionary	Hybrid - Discretionary - Att'y
Minnesota	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y/Professional
Mississippi	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y/Professional
Missouri	Required	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Req'd if abuse - Att'y
Montana	Discretionary	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Nebraska	Discretionary	Discretionary	Required	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Nevada	No statute	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Professional
New Hampshire	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Professional
New Jersey	Req'd if approved agency recommends against	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/ Other Prof.
New Mexico	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
New York	Required in revocation of adoption consent	Required	Required	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
North Carolina	Discretionary in contested	Discretionary	Required if father files	GAL - Discretionary - Does not specify
North Dakota	Required in relinquishment	Discretionary	No statutory reference	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Ohio	Discretionary	Discretionary	Required if mother's and child's interest in conflict	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/ Other Prof.
Oklahoma	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	No statute	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Oregon	No statute	No statute	No statute	Att'y - Req'd if a minor requests - Att'y
Pennsylvania	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statute	Att'y or Hybrid - Discretionary - Att'y
Rhode Island	Discretionary	Discretionary	No reference in statute	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Does not specify
South Carolina	Required	Discretionary	Req'd if action seeks to legitimize minor	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other
South Dakota	No statute	Discretionary	No statute	Att'y - Discretionary - Att'y
Tennessee	Req'd if mentally disabled	Discretionary	No reference in statute	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Does not specify
Texas	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL or Att'y *Ad Litem* - Req'd if in best interest - GAL can be Att'y/Adult
Utah	Discretionary	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Vermont	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y - Req'd if a minor is a witness - GAL is Discretionary - Att'y
Virginia	No statutory reference	Required	Req'd if minor is a party	Att'y or GAL - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y
Washington	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other
West Virginia	No statutory reference	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Req'd if abuse involved - GAL - does not specify
Wisconsin	Req'd if contested	Req'd if contested	Req'd if contested	GAL - Req'd if contested - Att'y
Wyoming	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Hybrid - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y

* This chart indicates specific statutory sections that provide for the appointment of an attorney or guardian *ad litem* for a child. The chart was prepared by ABA Child Custody and Adoption Pro Bono Project.