

Charts

Chart 1: Alimony/Spousal Support Factors

STATE	Statutory List*	Marital Fault Not Considered	Marital Fault Relevant	Standard of Living	Status as Custodial Parent Considered
Alabama			x	x	
Alaska	x	x		x	x
Arizona	x	x		x	x
Arkansas		x			
California	x	x		x	
Colorado	x	x		x	x
Connecticut	x		x	x	x
Delaware	x	x		x	x
District of Columbia			x	x	
Florida	x		x	x	
Georgia	x		x	x	
Hawaii	x	x		x	x
Idaho	x		x	x	x
Illinois	x	x		x	x
Indiana	x	x			
Iowa	x	x		x	x
Kansas		x			
Kentucky			x ¹	x	
Louisiana	x		x		x
Maine	x	x			
Maryland	x		x	x	
Massachusetts	x		x	x	
Michigan			x	x	
Minnesota	x	x		x	x
Mississippi			x		
Missouri			x	x	x
Montana	x	x		x	x
Nebraska	x	x		x	x
Nevada		x		x	x
New Hampshire	x		x	x	x
New Jersey	x		x	x	x
New Mexico	x	x		x	
New York	x		x	x	x
North Carolina	x		x	x	
North Dakota			x	x	
Ohio	x	x		x	x
Oklahoma		x		x	x
Oregon	x	x		x	x
Pennsylvania	x		x	x	
Rhode Island	x		x	x	x
South Carolina	x		x	x	x
South Dakota	x		x	x	
Tennessee	x		x	x	x
Texas	x		x	x	x
Utah	x		x	x	x
Vermont	x	x		x	x
Virginia	x		x	x	
Washington	x	x		x	
West Virginia	x		x		x
Wisconsin	x	x		x	x
Wyoming			x		

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

1. Only fault on the part of the party seeking alimony.

Chart 2: Custody Criteria

STATE	Statutory Factors*	Child's Wishes	Joint Custody Authorized	Presumption in Favor of Joint Custody	Cooperative Parent	Domestic Violence**	Attorney or GAL***
Alabama		x ³	x		x	x	
Alaska	x	x	x		x	x	x
Arizona	x	x	x		x	x	x
Arkansas		x	x			x	
California		x ⁴	x	x ¹	x	x	x
Colorado	x	x	x ¹		x	x	x
Connecticut	x	x	x	x ¹	x	x	x
Delaware	x	x	x			x	x
District of Columbia	x	x		x	x	x	x
Florida	x	x		x ¹	x	x	x
Georgia	x	x ⁴	x			x	x
Hawaii		x ⁴	x			x	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	
Kentucky	x	x	x			x	
Louisiana	x	x	x		x	x	x
Maine	x	x	x ¹		x	x	x
Maryland		x ³	x		x ³	x	x
Massachusetts			x		x	x	x
Michigan		x	x		x	x	x
Minnesota	x	x		x	x	x	x
Mississippi		x ³	x			x	x
Missouri	x	x	x		x	x	x
Montana	x	x	x ¹			x	x
Nebraska ⁸		x	x ¹			x	x
Nevada	x	x ⁴	x		x	x	
New Hampshire ⁸	x	x		x ^{1,7}	x	x	x
New Jersey	x	x	x		x	x	x
New Mexico	x	x ²		x	x	x	x
New York		x			x	x	x
North Carolina		x ³	x			x	
North Dakota	x	x	x		x ³	x	x
Ohio	x	x	x ¹			x	x
Oklahoma		x ⁴	x		x	x	x
Oregon	x	x ³	x	x ¹	x	x	
Pennsylvania		x ⁴	x		x	x	x
Puerto Rico						x	x
Rhode Island		x ³	x ³			x	
South Carolina		x ⁴	x ³			x	
South Dakota		x	x				
Tennessee	x	x	x ³		x	x	x
Texas		x	x ³		x	x	x
Utah	x	x	x		x		x
Vermont	x		x ¹		x	x ⁶	x
Virginia	x	x	x		x	x	
Washington	x	x	x ¹			x	x
West Virginia	x	x	x ¹			x	x
Wisconsin	x	x	x		x	x	x
Wyoming	x	x ³	x		x	x	

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

** The jurisdiction has enacted a statute permitting consideration of domestic violence in conjunction with child custody. The statutes vary from making domestic violence a factor in custody determinations to imposing presumptions against custody in batterers or imposing special procedural considerations in cases involving domestic violence.

*** This column indicates whether a state has statutory authority for appointment of a Guardian ad litem or attorney for a child, specifically in child custody cases.

1. Does not use the term "child custody" but instead uses "parental responsibilities and rights" or similar terminology.

2. The wishes of children under age fourteen are a factor to be considered; the court must consider the wishes of a child fourteen years of age or older.
3. By case law.
4. Court must consider the wishes of a child of sufficient maturity to express them.
5. Uses the terminology “managing conservator” of the child to describe a custodial parent.
6. The presence of domestic violence may be a defense for a parent who refuses to comply with a visitation order.
7. Presumption in favor of joint custody if the parents agree to it.
8. Comprehensive legislative revision recently effective.

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

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

Chart 3: *continued*

STATE	Income Share	Percent of Income	Extraordinary Medical Deduction	Child-Care Deduction	College Support	Shared Parenting Time Offset
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
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 if 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 Irreconcilable Differences, or Similar Ground	Living Separate and Apart	Judicial Separation	Durational Requirements
Alabama		x	x	2 years	x	6 months
Alaska		x	x		x	none
Arizona	x	x ²	x			90 days
Arkansas		x ²		18 months	x	60 days
California	x		x		x	6 months ¹
Colorado	x		x		x	90 days
Connecticut		x	x	18 months	x	1 year
Delaware		x	x	6 months	x	6 months
District of Columbia	x			6 months ⁴ ; 1 year	x	6 months ⁴
Florida	x		x			6 months
Georgia		x	x			6 months
Hawaii	x		x	2 years	x	6 months
Idaho		x	x	5 years		6 weeks
Illinois		x		2 years	x	90 days
Indiana	x		x		x	6 months
Iowa	x		x		x	1 year
Kansas	x		x		x	60 days
Kentucky	x		x		x	180 days
Louisiana		x ²		6 months ³	x	6 months
Maine		x	x		x	6 months
Maryland		x		12 months	x	1 year
Massachusetts		x	x		x	none
Michigan	x		x		x	180 days
Minnesota	x		x		x	180 days
Mississippi		x	x ⁴			6 months
Missouri	x		x		x	90 days
Montana	x		x	180 days	x	90 days
Nebraska	x		x		x	1 year
Nevada	x		x	1 year	x	6 weeks
New Hampshire		x	x		x	1 year
New Jersey		x	x ⁷	18 months	x	1 year
New Mexico		x	x			6 months
New York		x		1 year ⁵	x	1 year
North Carolina		x		1 year	x	6 months
North Dakota		x	x		x	6 months
Ohio		x	x	1 year		6 months
Oklahoma		x	x		x	6 months
Oregon	x		x		x	6 months
Pennsylvania		x	x ⁴	2 years		6 months
Rhode Island		x	x	3 years	x	1 year
South Carolina		x		1 year	x	1 year ⁶
South Dakota		x	x		x	none
Tennessee		x	x	2 years	x	6 months
Texas		x	x	3 years		6 months
Utah		x	x	3 years	x	3 months
Vermont		x		6 months		6 months
Virginia		x		1 year	x	6 months
Washington	x		x ⁴	12 months		none
West Virginia		x	x	1 year	x	1 year
Wisconsin	x			12 months	x	6 months
Wyoming		x			x	60 days

1. California requires domicile as distinguished from residency for jurisdictional purposes.
2. Covenant marriage statutes establish specific grounds for divorce for covenant marriages.
3. Two years for covenant marriages.
4. Available in a jointly filed petition.
5. New York requires that the parties live separate and apart after the execution of a written separation agreement.
6. South Carolina's one-year residency requirement only applies where the Plaintiff is a resident of the state but the defendant is not. If both parties are residents of South Carolina, the durational requirement is three months.
7. New Jersey requires that irreconcilable differences cause the breakdown of the marriage for six months.

Chart 5: Property Division

STATE	Community Property	Only Marital/Community Property Divided	Statutory List of Factors	Nonmonetary Contributions	Economic Misconduct	Contribution to Education
Alabama		x		x		x
Alaska	x ¹		x	x	x	
Arizona	x	x			x	x
Arkansas		x	x	x	x	
California	x	x ²			x	x
Colorado		x	x	x	x	
Connecticut			x	x	x	x
Delaware		x	x	x	x	x
District of Columbia		x		x	x	
Florida		x	x	x	x	x
Georgia		x				
Hawaii		x	x	x ³	x ⁴	
Idaho	x	x	x			
Illinois		x	x	x	x	
Indiana			x	x	x	
Iowa			x	x	x	x
Kansas			x		x	
Kentucky		x	x	x	x	x
Louisiana	x	x ²				
Maine		x	x	x	x	
Maryland		x	x	x	x	
Massachusetts			x	x	x	x
Michigan		x		x	x	x
Minnesota		x	x	x	x	
Mississippi				x	x	
Missouri		x	x	x	x	x
Montana			x	x	x	
Nebraska			x	x		
Nevada	x	x		x	x	x
New Hampshire			x	x	x	x
New Jersey						
New Mexico	x	x				
New York		x	x	x	x	x
North Carolina		x	x	x	x	x
North Dakota				x	x	x
Ohio		x	x	x	x	x
Oklahoma		x		x	x	
Oregon				x	x	x
Pennsylvania		x	x	x	x	x
Rhode Island		x	x	x	x	x
South Carolina		x	x	x	x	x
South Dakota				x	x	
Tennessee		x	x	x	x	x
Texas	x	x			x	
Utah						
Vermont			x	x	x	x
Virginia		x	x	x	x	x
Washington	x		x			
West Virginia		x	x	x	x	x
Wisconsin	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wyoming			x	x	x	x

1. The parties may contract to make some or all of their marital property community property.
2. Community property must be divided equally.
3. Nonmonetary contributions during marriage do not affect property division nor does the lack of them.
4. No statutory provision; case law is mixed.

Chart 6: Third-Party Visitation

STATE	Stepparents	Grandparents, Generally*	Grandparents—Death of Their Child	Grandparents—Child Divorce	Grandparents—Parents Never Married	Any Interested Party	After Termination of Parental Rights or Adoption
Alabama		x	x	x	x		x
Alaska		x					x
Arizona			x ⁹	x ⁹	x ⁹	x ²	
Arkansas	x		x	x	x	x ^{2,4}	
California	x ¹		x ¹	x ¹		x ^{2,4}	
Colorado			x ¹	x ¹	x ¹	x ²	
Connecticut						x ¹	
Delaware	x	x ¹⁰				x ^{2,4}	
District of Columbia							
Florida			x ¹	x ¹	x ¹		
Georgia		x ⁶					
Hawaii						x ^{1,2}	
Idaho	x ^{2,4}	x					
Illinois	x ¹		x	x	x		
Indiana			x	x	x		
Iowa		x					
Kansas	x	x ^{1,6}					
Kentucky		x					x
Louisiana	x ^{2,4}		x	x			x
Maine		x	x			x ^{2,4}	
Maryland	x ^{2,4}	x ¹					
Massachusetts		x	x	x		x ^{2,4}	
Michigan		x	x	x			
Minnesota			x ⁶	x ⁶	x ⁶	x ^{1,2}	
Mississippi		x ^{2,9}	x	x		x ^{2,4}	
Missouri		x ^{2,9}	x	x			
Montana		x					
Nebraska			x	x	x		
Nevada			x	x	x	x ²	
New Hampshire		x					
New Jersey		x ¹				x ^{2,4,7}	
New Mexico		x ^{2,6}	x	x			
New York		x ²	x			x ^{2,4}	
North Carolina		x ⁵		x			
North Dakota		x				x ^{2,4}	
Ohio			x ^{1,6}	x ¹	x ¹		
Oklahoma			x	x	x		
Oregon		x ⁶				x ²	
Pennsylvania	x ^{2,4}	x ²	x	x		x ^{2,4,7}	
Puerto Rico		x	x	x			
Rhode Island		x ⁹	x	x		x ^{2,4}	
South Carolina							
South Dakota		x ⁹				x ²	
Tennessee	x	x ⁹	x	x			
Texas			x	x		x ^{2,4}	
Utah		x ⁶					
Vermont		x ⁶	x			x ^{2,4}	
Virginia						x	
Washington						x ⁸	
West Virginia		x					
Wisconsin	x ³		x		x ¹⁰	x ^{2,4}	
Wyoming		x					

* Grandparents may obtain visitation when the parents are alive and regardless of their marital status. Many of these statutes contain requirements, such as the establishment of a substantial relationship, the best interests of the child, the existence of a residential relationship, the parent's unreasonable denial of visitation, or a combination of these.

1. A court of the state has declared the statute unconstitutional either on its face or as applied.
2. A person who stands "in loco parentis," who is a "de facto," "equitable" or "psychological parent," or who has a substantial

Chart 6: *continued*

residential relationship with a child may seek visitation or custody without showing that a parent is unfit or other extraordinary circumstances. Some statutes impose a time requirement for the duration of the relationship before visitation or custody may be sought. New York requires proof of "extraordinary circumstances."

3. Stepparent may seek visitation only when s/he is the surviving spouse of a deceased parent.
4. Case law permits stepparents to seek custody as de facto parents.
5. An independent action for visitation may be maintained only when child has been adopted by a stepparent.
6. Grandparent may petition for visitation in stepparent adoption situations.
7. Case law is mixed.
8. Washington's third-party visitation statute has been declared unconstitutional, but its supreme court has recognized that de facto parents have custody & visitation rights.
9. Third-party petitioning for visitation must show that visitation was denied not merely limited.
10. Visitation cannot be ordered over the objection of one of the natural parents if they are married.

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/Other Person/Gov't Att'y
Arizona	Discretionary	Discretionary; Req'd to revoke guardianship	No statutory reference	GAL/Att'y/Court Advisor - Discretionary - Att'y/Qualified Individual
Arkansas	Discretionary	Discretionary where custody is an issue	No statutory reference	Att'y <i>Ad Litem</i> - Discretionary - Att'y
California	No statutory reference	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	Hybrid - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Colorado	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y
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 is involved	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	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	No statutory reference	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary (GAL req'd if abuse) - Att'y/Certified Citizen
Georgia	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary - Any Trained Person
Hawaii	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Prof.
Idaho	Discretionary	Required	No statutory reference	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Illinois	Required	Discretionary, Req'd if abuse or neglect	Discretionary	Att'y/Hybrid/or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Indiana	No statutory reference	Req'd unless waived	No statutory reference	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/CASA trained
Iowa	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y/or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Kansas	No statutory reference	Discretionary	Req'd if interests of child and petitioner differ	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Kentucky	Req'd if adoption follows termination or if both parents are deceased	Discretionary	No statutory reference	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Louisiana	Req'd if father contests or in terminations	Discretionary	No statutory reference	Att'y - Req'd if abuse - Att'y
Maine	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statutory reference	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Prof.
Maryland	Req'd if minor over 10	Discretionary	No statutory reference	Att'y/or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Massachusetts	Required if contested	Discretionary	Discretionary	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 - Att'y/Professional
Mississippi	Req'd if contested	No statutory reference	No statutory reference	GAL - Req'd if abuse - Att'y/Professional
Missouri	Required	Discretionary	Req'd if abuse/neglect, minor is defendant, or interests of child and next friend differ	GAL - Req'd if abuse - Att'y/or CASA
Montana	Discretionary	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Prof.
Nebraska	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statutory reference	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Nevada	No statute	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Prof.
New Hampshire	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Prof.
New Jersey	Req'd if approved agency recommends against	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Prof.
New Mexico	Req'd if contested	Req'd if contested by parent or revocation	Req'd if minor is a party	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
New York	Required in revocation of adoption consent	Req'd for destitute or dependent minors	No statutory reference	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
North Carolina	Discretionary if contested	Discretionary	Required if father files	GAL - Discretionary - Does not specify
North Dakota	Required in relinquishment	Discretionary	Req'd if child's interests are not adequately represented	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Ohio	Discretionary	Req'd if guardian has adverse interest	Req'd if interests of mother and child's differ	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Prof.
Oklahoma	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Req'd if child's interests are not adequately represented	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Oregon	No statute	No statutory reference	No statute	Att'y - Req'd if a minor requests - Att'y
Pennsylvania	Req'd for involuntary termination requested by either parent	No statutory reference	No statute	Att'y or Hybrid - Discretionary - Att'y
Rhode Island	Discretionary	No statutory reference	No reference in statute	GAL - Discretionary - Does not specify
South Carolina	Required	Discretionary	Req'd if action may make minor illegitimate	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Layperson
South Dakota	No statute	Discretionary	No statute	Att'y (BI) - Discretionary - Att'y
Tennessee	Req'd if mentally disabled	Req'd unless waived	No reference in statute	GAL - Discretionary - Does not specify
Texas	Discretionary	Att'y req'd, GAL discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party or interests are not adequately represented	Att'y <i>ad litem</i> /GAL/or Amicus/Att'y - Req'd if in best interest - Att'y/Adult
Utah	Discretionary	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	Att'y (BI) - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Vermont	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y - Req'd if a minor is witness - Att'y, GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Virginia	No statutory reference	No statutory reference	Req'd if minor is a party	Att'y or GAL - Req'd if abuse - Att'y
Washington	Discretionary	Discretionary	Req'd if the minor is a party or interests are not adequately represented	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other
West Virginia	No statutory reference	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/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	Req'd if the minor is a party or interests are not adequately represented	Hybrid - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y

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