Navigating Divorce, Custody, and Child Support Cases in Rhode Island: Key Issues and Legal Guidance

Services

Family Law

- Alimony
- Alimony Modification
- Child Custody & Visitation
- Child Support
- Child Support Modification
- Divorce

Mediation

- Family Law Mediation

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Family law cases, such as divorce, custody disputes, and child support matters, can be complex and emotionally charged. These cases often involve critical decisions that impact your financial stability, family relationships, and overall well-being. Understanding Rhode Island family law and knowing your rights is essential for achieving a fair resolution.

What Are Common Issues in Divorce and Custody Cases?

1. Divorce

Divorce often involves disputes over:

- **Division of Marital Property:** Rhode Island is an equitable distribution state, meaning marital property is divided fairly but not necessarily equally. Factors such as the length of the marriage, each spouse's financial contributions, and future needs are considered.
- **Alimony:** Spousal support may be awarded to provide financial stability for one spouse based on factors such as income, earning capacity, and the standard of living during the marriage.

2. Custody and Parenting Plans

Child custody disputes are among the most sensitive aspects of family law. Rhode Island courts prioritize the best interests of the child when determining custody arrangements, considering:

- The child's relationship with each parent.
- Each parent's ability to provide a stable and nurturing environment.
- The child's needs, preferences (if age-appropriate), and adjustment to home, school, and community.

Parenting plans outline custody, visitation schedules, holiday arrangements, and decision-making responsibilities. Disputes may require mediation or court intervention.

Understanding Child Support in Rhode Island

Child support ensures that both parents contribute to the financial well-being of their child. Rhode Island follows the Income Shares Model, which calculates child support based on the combined income of both parents and their proportional share of that income.

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Benefits of Establishing or Adjusting Child Support Orders

Child support orders provide financial stability for children and help cover essential needs, including housing, food, education, and healthcare. Adjusting a child support order ensures it remains fair and reflects current circumstances, such as changes in income or parenting arrangements.

When Can a Child Support Order Be Modified or Terminated in Rhode Island?

Modification

A child support order in Rhode Island can be modified if there has been a substantial change in circumstances, such as:

- A significant increase or decrease in either parent's income.
- Changes in the child's needs, such as medical expenses or educational costs.
- A change in custody or visitation arrangements.
- Job loss, disability, or other unforeseen financial changes.

To request a modification, the party seeking the change must file a motion with the Rhode Island Family Court. The court will review the case to determine whether a modification is warranted.

Termination

Child support obligations in Rhode Island typically end when the child reaches the age of 18 or graduates from high school, whichever occurs later. However, support may continue under certain circumstances, such as:

- If the child is attending college, the court may order continued support or require parents to contribute to college expenses.
- If the child has a disability, support may continue into adulthood to meet their needs.

It is important to seek court approval to terminate child support obligations to avoid legal complications.

The Benefits of Securing Legal Representation

Family law cases involve complex legal and financial considerations. Attempting to navigate these issues without professional guidance can lead to costly mistakes and unfavorable outcomes.

How a Rhode Island Family Law Attorney Can Help

1. **Experienced Advice:** An experienced family law attorney will explain your rights, obligations, and options under Rhode Island law.
2. **Effective Advocacy:** Legal counsel ensures that your interests are represented in negotiations or court proceedings.

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3. **Accurate Calculations:** Properly establishing or modifying child support ensures fairness for both parents and meets the child's needs.
4. **Efficient Resolution:** An attorney can help resolve disputes quickly and minimize emotional and financial stress.
5. **Enforcement of Orders:** If a parent fails to comply with a court order, an attorney can help enforce your rights through legal remedies.

At Cohen Cleary, P.C., we are dedicated to helping clients navigate these challenging situations with professionalism, compassion, and a focus on achieving positive results.

Contact Cohen Cleary, P.C. for a Complimentary Case Consultation

If you are facing a divorce, custody dispute, or child support issue in Rhode Island, Cohen Cleary, P.C. is here to help. Our experienced family law attorneys provide personalized guidance to protect your rights and ensure the best possible outcome for you and your family.

Call us today at **508-880-6677** to schedule a **complimentary case consultation**. Let us help you navigate these important legal matters with confidence and care.

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