

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

PARALEGAL STUDIES 150 – FAMILY LAW (DIVORCE, SEPARATION, NULLITY, AND PATERNITY)

2 hours lecture, 2 units

Catalog Description

Family law matters such as legal separation, dissolution of marriage, nullity and paternity are included. The law in California regulating such matters and the drafting of appropriate documents will be emphasized.

Prerequisite

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in PARA 100 or equivalent

Recommended Preparation

Familiarity with Canvas learning platform, basic computing.

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Have a basic understanding of the American legal system.
- 2) Be familiar with basic legal concepts and basic legal vocabulary.
- 3) Understand the judicial system as to Federal and state court structure and the administrative system.

This course will deal with a major area of substantive law and how it relates to other areas of the law, so an understanding of substantive and procedural law is critical.

Course Content

- 1) Collect background information on client
- 2) Determine whether subject matter jurisdiction and personal jurisdiction exist to file a case
- 3) Determine the grounds for legal separation and dissolution of marriage
- 4) Draft a petition and accompanying pleadings for a dissolution and a response
- 5) Learn how to effectuate the service of legal documents
- 6) Draft a motion for temporary orders, and declarations
- 7) Draft marital disclosures
- 8) Property Issues
- 9) Draft a settlement conference brief
- 10) Draft judgments for paternity and dissolution of marriage
- 11) Learn what ethical rules must be followed in assisting clients with family law matters
- 12) Prepare various discovery documents

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Understand and research family law to draft memoranda.
- 2) Prepare forms and documents required for family law matters.
- 3) Draft pleadings and discovery in hypothetical cases.
- 4) Investigate facts and prepare case for settlement or trial.
- 5) Assist client with referrals to other professionals and agencies.
- 6) Understand the role and ethical responsibilities of the paralegal.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation:

- 1) Discussion groups through posting boards with discussions, or other vehicle to evaluate student's use of legal terminology and effective communication
- 2) Exams
- 3) Written assignments

Special Materials Required of Student

Computer or device with consistent internet access or regular time scheduled in a computer lab on campus.

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Computer Lab access for students on a regular basis

Method of Instruction

- 1) Reading online lecture materials or watching online lectures, and participating in online discussions or chats
- 2) Case studies
- 3) Research methodologies

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading assignments
- 2) Written assignments

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Hon. Michael Bishay et.al. *Practice Under the California Family Code: Dissolution, Legal Separation, and Nullity*. CEB OnLaw 2023, CEB-Family Law-Practice Under the California Family Code: <https://onlaw-ceb-com.ezproxy.cuyamaca.edu/onlaw/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=OnLAW:CEB>.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Exit Skills

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of, and properly use, legal terminology.
- 2) Recognize potential ethical problems in the areas of family law.
- 3) Draft court documents or legal instruments used in family law.
- 4) Understand administrative law and the administrative legal system.
- 5) Demonstrate writing skills necessary to communicate in a professional setting.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Prepare forms, memoranda and documents for Family Law matters (Work-Based Learning Outcome).
- 2) Investigate facts and assist in preparation of cases for settlement or trial.
- 3) Draft pleadings and discovery in hypothetical cases.
- 4) Explain the role and ethical responsibilities of the paralegal.