

Table of Contents

PART I. THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW

CHAPTER 1. THE ORIGINS OF MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW

- § 1:6 The Massachusetts Constitution of 1780 and domestic relations law
- § 1:12 Traditional definition of marriage refined
- § 1:13 Alimony reform

PART II. THE MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW PRACTITIONER

CHAPTER 2. THE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FAMILY LAW PRACTITIONER

- § 2:7 Setting and charging fees in domestic relations cases
- § 2:8 The family lawyer's duty of diligence and competence
- § 2:9 Duty to return the client's files and papers
- § 2:15 Duty of candor to the court and the disclosure of confidential information in certain circumstances
- § 2:22 Ethical obligations in the negotiation of a family settlement
- § 2:31 Ethical duty regarding financial statement

CHAPTER 3. THE RESOURCES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW PRACTITIONER

- § 3:1 Primary library and research resources for the Massachusetts family law practitioner
- § 3:7 Arbitration services

CHAPTER 4. INITIATING AND TERMINATING THE ATTORNEY'S APPEARANCE IN THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACTION

- § 4:9 Terminating the attorney-client relationship
- § 4:21 Request for limited issues settlement conference *[New]*
- § 4:22 Request for limited issues settlement conference—Form *[New]*

PART III. ATTORNEY FEES

CHAPTER 5. ATTORNEY FEES TO BE PAID BY THE CLIENT

- § 5:1 Fees generally in family law cases
- § 5:2 Fees to be paid by the client—General principles
- § 5:11 Attorney liens to secure fees
- § 5:14 Fee information to be provided to the client

PART IV. THE COURTS AND FAMILY LAW PRACTICE

CHAPTER 7. THE MASSACHUSETTS COURTS AND THEIR FAMILY LAW JURISDICTION

- § 7:3 Probate and Family Court Department of the Trial Court

PART V. STATUTES AND RULES GOVERNING MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW PRACTICE

CHAPTER 8. THE MASSACHUSETTS STATUTORY SCHEME GOVERNING FAMILY LAW MATTERS

- § 8:4 Statutes governing divorce jurisdiction, venue and pleading
- § 8:6 Statutes governing equity jurisdiction and injunctions in family law controversies
- § 8:7 Statutes governing family and spousal support
- § 8:10 Statutes governing care, custody and visitation of children
- § 8:11 Statutes on child support
- § 8:12 Statutes governing parentage of children born out of wedlock
- § 8:15 Statutes governing change of name
- § 8:18 Statutes governing premarital contracts
- § 8:22 Statutes governing revocation of probate and nonprobate transfers by divorce *[New]*

CHAPTER 9. THE MASSACHUSETTS RULES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEDURE

- § 9:4 Rules governing pleadings and motions
- § 9:5 Rules governing parties
- § 9:10 Rules governing judgments

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**CHAPTER 10. FAMILY LAW PRACTICES,
POLICIES AND UNIFORM RULES OF
THE MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT**

- § 10:1 Introduction to the Massachusetts child support guidelines
- § 10:2 Massachusetts child support guidelines—Current text summary
[Retitled]
- § 10:3 The evolution of the child support guidelines

**CHAPTER 11. SELECTED RULES,
STANDING ORDERS AND PRACTICES
OF THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT**

- § 11:2 Miscellaneous supplemental rules of the Probate and
Family Court [Retitled]
- § 11:5 Attorney's role in the financial statement
- § 11:23 Probate and Family Court Standing Order 3-2023: Co-
parenting education course for married and unmarried
parents [Retitled]
- § 11:28 Supplemental Rule 412 dealing with uncontested actions to
modify a judgment or order [Retitled]
- § 11:35 Standing Order 6-08—Parent education program for never
married parents
- § 11:40 Joint petition/motion to change a judgment or temporary
order—Official Probate and Family Court form [New]
- § 11:41 Agreement to change a judgment or temporary order—Of-
ficial Probate and Family Court form [New]
- § 11:42 Judgment on petition/motion to change a judgment or
order—Official Probate and Family Court form [New]
- § 11:43 Request for Limited Issues Settlement Conference—Official
Probate and Family Court form [New]
- § 11:44 [Reserved]
- § 11:44.50 Standing order 1-17 governing parenting coordination
[New]
- § 11:45 [Reserved]
- § 11:46 Supreme judicial court rule 1:24—Protection of personal
identifying information in publicly accessible court
documents [New]
- § 11:47 Standing Order 2-17 regarding family-centered case resolu-
tion and case management [New]
- § 11:48 Standing Order 4-20 concerning email service in cases
under Rule 5(b) of the Massachusetts Rules of Domestic
Relations Procedure [New]
- § 11:49 Standing Order 2-2021—Interdivisional case transfers and
interdivisional case assignments for hearing purposes
only [New]
- § 11:50 Standing Order 1-24—Remote access to electronic court
records [New]
- § 11:51 Standing Order 1-25—The Office of Adult Guardianship
and Conservatorship Oversight (OAGCO) [New]
- § 11:52 Standing Order 2-25—Pathways Case Management System
[New]
- § 11:53 Standing Order 3-25—Trial completion [New]

PART VI. FEDERAL POLICIES AFFECTING FAMILY LAW

CHAPTER 13. FEDERAL FAMILY LAW POLICIES

- § 13:2 The domestic relations exception to federal diversity jurisdiction
- § 13:4 Federal policies regarding pensions of married persons
- § 13:5 Federal policies on parental kidnapping of children
- § 13:7 Federal policies regarding adoption and custody of Native American children *[Retitled]*
- § 13:11 Federal immigration policy and the status of children
- § 13:13 The impact of federal constitutional doctrine on family law policy
- § 13:14 The Federal Respect for Marriage Act *[Retitled]*
- § 13:15 Social security support benefits paid to a divorced spouse
- § 13:16 The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003
- § 13:17 The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003—Child support garnishment limitations under the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act *[New]*

CHAPTER 14. FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY PRACTICES AFFECTING FAMILY LAW

- § 14:1 The impact of federal bankruptcy policy on family law
- § 14:4 Nondischargeability of domestic support obligations
- § 14:5 Non-dischargeability of obligations arising from court-ordered attorney fees
- § 14:8 Priority for domestic support obligations
- § 14:9 Automatic stays of pending state domestic relations actions involving financial liabilities of bankruptcy petitioners *[Retitled]*

CHAPTER 15. FAMILY LAW AND FEDERAL TAX POLICY

- § 15:6 The dependent child exemption
- § 15:9 The alimony deduction
- § 15:12 Federal tax policies governing division of pensions
- § 15:13 Determination of marital status for purposes of federal tax law
- § 15:16 The dependent child exemption
- § 15:17 Federal and State Taxation and same-sex marriage *[Retitled]*
- § 15:18 Taxation of payments made to surrogates and gamete donors *[New]*

CHAPTER 16. TAX LAW AND DIVORCE

- § 16:2 Tax consequences of alimony
- § 16:5 Tax filing status
- § 16:6 Dependency exemption

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 16:7 Mortgage interest and real estate taxes
- § 16:8 Retirement plans and IRAs
- § 16:10 Tax considerations for same sex couples
- § 16:11 Obligation to raise tax issues

PART VII. THE LAW OF MARRIAGE

CHAPTER 17. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY DEFINED AND ILLUSTRATED

- § 17:1 Definition of marriage
- § 17:5 The disqualification of spousal conversations *[Retitled]*
- § 17:14 Parental leave under state law *[New]*
- § 17:15 Rights of abused person in regard to employment leave *[New]*

CHAPTER 18. THE INTENTION AND CAPACITY TO MARRY

- § 18:1 The engagement to marry

CHAPTER 19. SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE

- § 19:7 Marriages contracted in foreign countries
- § 19:16 The evolution of same-sex marriage

CHAPTER 20. THE VALIDITY OF MARRIAGE

- § 20:3 Voidable marriages

CHAPTER 21. PREMARITAL PLANNING FOR DEATH AND DIVORCE

- § 21:4 Standards governing premarital agreements, generally
- § 21:7 Standards for determining if the premarital agreement is fair
and reasonable as of the time of its pre-marriage execution
- § 21:8 Standards for determining if the premarital agreement is
unconscionable at the time of the divorce *[Retitled]*
- § 21:12 Alimony waivers in premarital agreements *[New]*
- § 21:13 Postnuptial or marital agreements *[New]*

CHAPTER 23. ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE

- § 23:15 Affirmative defenses in annulment actions

Table of Contents

PART VIII. UNMARRIED DOMESTIC PARTNERS

CHAPTER 24. THE LEGAL STATUS OF NON-MARITAL UNIONS

- § 24:1 Non-marital cohabitation generally
- § 24:2 Non-marital cohabitation distinguished from marriage
- § 24:3 Criminal statutes regarding private consensual sexual relations between unmarried persons

CHAPTER 25. RIGHTS, DUTIES AND LIABILITIES OF DOMESTIC PARTNERS

- § 25:10 Co-parenting between partners and visitation claims by a non-parent
- § 25:11 Verified Complaint to Establish De Facto Parentage (M.G.L. c. 209C, § 25)—Official form *[New]*
- § 25:12 Answer to Verified Complaint to Establish De Facto Parentage Under M.G.L. c. 209C, § 25—Official form *[New]*
- § 25:13 Motion for Temporary Contact De Facto Parentage (M.G.L. c. 209C, § 25(h))—Official form *[New]*
- § 25:14 Request for Hearing on Sufficiency and Standing on a Complaint to Establish De Facto Parentage (M.G.L. c. 209C, § 25(f), (g))—Official form *[New]*

PART IX. ISSUES RELATING TO HUMAN REPRODUCTION

CHAPTER 26. REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- § 26:1 Family law and the reproductive revolution, generally
- § 26:2 Summarizing the various forms of assisted reproduction under Massachusetts law
- § 26:3 Intrauterine insemination, gestation and parenthood
- § 26:5 In vitro fertilization and the disposition of excess embryos
- § 26:6 Surrogacy arrangements
- § 26:7 Use of cryopreserved gametes or embryos to achieve posthumous reproduction

CHAPTER 27. BIRTH CONTROL

- § 27:2 Massachusetts health facilities not required to provide birth prevention services

- § 27:3 The early law governing abortion
- § 27:4 The landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade* and its offspring
- § 27:9 The trimester standard replaced by an undue burden test in *Casey*
- § 27:10 The pregnant minor child, parental consent and abortion

PART X. DIVORCE PLEADING AND PRACTICE

CHAPTER 28. THE NATURE AND THEORY OF DIVORCE LAW AND PRACTICE

- § 28:11 Care, custody and maintenance of minor children in divorce actions

CHAPTER 29. DIVORCE JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- § 29:2 The meaning of domicile in divorce practice
- § 29:3 The Massachusetts statutory provisions as to domicile in divorce actions
- § 29:4 The durational residency requirement in divorce actions where cause occurred outside the Commonwealth
- § 29:5 Massachusetts domiciliary seeking divorce in another jurisdiction
- § 29:6 Jurisdiction to award or modify alimony at or after a divorce
- § 29:7 Jurisdiction to award or modify child support at or after a divorce
- § 29:8 Jurisdiction to assign property interests of the parties at the time of a divorce or thereafter
- § 29:9 Jurisdiction to provide for custody of minor children incident to or after a divorce
- § 29:10 Judgments of support and/or property division and application of the full faith and credit clause
- § 29:12 Venue in divorce actions
- § 29:18 Limits on state divorce jurisdiction over foreign diplomats

CHAPTER 30. CONFLICT OF LAWS AND CHOICE OF LAW

- § 30:4 Divorce judgments of other states and foreign nations
- § 30:6 The statutory rules governing child support proceedings in multiple states
- § 30:8 Multiple child custody proceedings and conflict of laws

CHAPTER 32. COMMENCEMENT OF THE DIVORCE ACTION

- § 32:17 Affidavit of indigency and request for waiver of fees and costs, with supplements and instructions—Official form
- § 32:30 Military affidavit—Official trial court form *[New]*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 36. NO-FAULT DIVORCE

§ 36:1.50 Conference for settlement of limited issues *[New]*

**CHAPTER 37. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION**

§ 37:3 Types of dispute resolution services

CHAPTER 39. SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAIL

§ 39:6 Admissibility of electronically stored information

CHAPTER 40. HEALTH INSURANCE

§ 40:3 Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)

§ 40:5 Support orders and health insurance

**CHAPTER 41. LIFE AND DISABILITY
INSURANCE**

§ 41:1 Life insurance

CHAPTER 42. PARENTING COORDINATORS

§ 42:4 Appointment of parent coordinators

§ 42:6 Violations of Parent Coordinator Decisions *[New]*

§ 42:7 Probate and family court standing order 1-17: Parenting
coordination *[New]*

§ 42:8 Failure to submit issue to parenting coordinator *[New]*

**CHAPTER 44. ORDERS PROHIBITING
RESTRAINT ON PERSONAL LIBERTY,
TO PREVENT ABUSE AND/OR TO
VACATE THE RESIDENCE IN PENDING
DIVORCE ACTIONS**

§ 44:18 Order to vacate the marital home—Harassment Prevention
Orders *[New]*

**CHAPTER 47. ORDERS PENDENTE LITE IN
DIVORCE PRACTICE**

§ 47:7 Temporary spousal support—General principles

§ 47:17 Temporary child support in divorce actions—General
principles

§ 47:60 Motion to stay action under Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of
2003—Illustrative form

§ 47:64 Status inquiry from those awaiting decisions *[New]*

§ 47:65 Form for submission of a status inquiry from those awaiting
decisions—Probate and Family Court Form PFC13 (1/2/14)
[New]

CHAPTER 48. INCOME ISSUES AND SUPPORT

- § 48:1 Child support
- § 48:2 Child support in high income cases
- § 48:3 Double dipping

CHAPTER 49. THE MASSACHUSETTS CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES

- § 49:1 The child support guidelines—Introduction
- § 49:2 The Massachusetts child support guidelines (2025) *[Retitled]*
- § 49:3 Child support guidelines worksheet
- § 49:4 Child support guidelines chart
- § 49:5 Report of the Task Force on the 2024-2025 child support guidelines *[Retitled]*
- § 49:6 Court decisions interpreting the child support guidelines
- § 49:7 Findings and determinations for child support and post-secondary education *[Retitled]*

CHAPTER 50. CHILD SUPPORT

- § 50:5 Operation of the child support guidelines
- § 50:6 The Massachusetts child support guidelines
- § 50:7 Modification of child support obligations
- § 50:8 Modification or enforcement of prior child support order against an out-of-state obligor under the long-arm statute
- § 50:9 Modification or enforcement of child support order against an out-of-state obligor under G.L. c. 209D
- § 50:10 Continuing exclusive jurisdiction over support orders
- § 50:12 Agreements for child support
- § 50:16 Child support services available through Department of Revenue Child Support Enforcement Division—D.O.R. form
- § 50:18 Establishing the child support order or judgment
- § 50:22 Past due child support reduced to judgment by operation of law
- § 50:45 Federal taxation and child support
- § 50:46 Claiming the exemption for children of divorced or separated parents
- § 50:50 Expenses of college education
- § 50:75 Equity jurisdiction and child support

CHAPTER 51. INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT

- § 51:2 Continuing, exclusive jurisdiction
- § 51:5 Jurisdiction over nonresidents
- § 51:7 Simultaneous proceedings in two states

CHAPTER 52. QUICK REFERENCE CITATIONS TO MASSACHUSETTS CHILD SUPPORT DECISIONS

- § 52:1 Decisions on setting child support orders

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 52:2 Decisions on post-majority child support
- § 52:3 Decisions on child support guidelines
- § 52:4 Decisions on modification of child support
- § 52:5 Attribution of income for purposes of determining child support obligation
- § 52:6 Enforcement of child support obligations

CHAPTER 53. ALIMONY

- § 53:1 Alimony in Massachusetts
- § 53:4 Importance of the length of the marriage
- § 53:5 Marital lifestyle and ability of each party to maintain the marital lifestyle
- § 53:6 The support function of general term alimony
- § 53:9 Alimony in divorce agreements *[Retitled]*
- § 53:10 Premarital and marital agreements
- § 53:13 Rehabilitative alimony
- § 53:15 Tax aspects of alimony awards or agreements
- § 53:17 Termination of alimony on remarriage of recipient
- § 53:19 Post-divorce alimony awards
- § 53:20 Modification of Massachusetts alimony judgments
- § 53:21 Complaint for modification of alimony—Official probate and family court form
- § 53:29 Health insurance coverage and alimony
- § 53:35 Alimony and disposable military retirement pay

CHAPTER 54. QUICK REFERENCE CITATIONS ON ALIMONY

- § 54:1 Court decisions on alimony
- § 54:3 Court decisions on alimony under the Alimony Reform Act

Table of Contents

PART XI. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MARITAL ESTATE

CHAPTER 55. CONTROLLING FACTORS IN PROPERTY ASSIGNMENT

- § 55:3 Relationship between alimony and property division
- § 55:5 The mandatory section 34 factors
- § 55:6 Length of the marriage
- § 55:7 Conduct of the parties
- § 55:9 Health of the parties

CHAPTER 56. PROPERTY SUBJECT TO DIVISION OR ASSIGNMENT

- § 56:8 Federal pensions
- § 56:10 Qualified domestic relations orders and the Retirement Equity Act of 1984
- § 56:12 Royalties, copyright and patent interests
- § 56:14 Interest in a business
- § 56:17 Inheritances, gifts and pre-marital property
- § 56:19 Social security benefits
- § 56:21 Property held in trust for benefit of a spouse
- § 56:22 Assignment of proceeds from an injury action or settlement
[Retitled]
- § 56:23 Stock options
- § 56:25 Pets
- § 56:26 Embryos subject to division in divorce [Retitled]

CHAPTER 59. VALUATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ASSIGNABLE PROPERTY

- § 59:3 Time factors in identification and valuation of assets
- § 59:7 Valuation of dissipated assets

CHAPTER 60. QUICK REFERENCE CITATIONS ON PROPERTY DIVISION IN DIVORCE

- § 60:4 Citations to decisions interpreting the statutory factors
- § 60:5 Quick reference citations on property division court decisions

PART XII. CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION

CHAPTER 61. JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURES IN CHILD CUSTODY CASES

- § 61:1 The interests of children and parents in custody disputes
- § 61:2 Massachusetts judicial interpretations of the Child Custody Jurisdiction Act
- § 61:4 Need to file affidavit disclosing care or custody proceedings
- § 61:5 Affidavit disclosing care and custody proceedings—Official trial court form
- § 61:6 Shared legal custody
- § 61:9 Parent education programs in divorce and custody cases
- § 61:11 Statutes governing domestic abuse as a factor which is contrary to the best interest of the child in custody disputes and a rebuttable presumption against custody being given to the abuser
- § 61:28 Parent coordinator
- § 61:29 Access by the non-custodial parent to the child's public elementary and secondary school records *[New]*

CHAPTER 62. DETERMINING THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

- § 62:1 The best interests of the child rule, generally
- § 62:2 Factors considered in child custody disputes between parents

CHAPTER 63. RELOCATION

- § 63:1 Removal of minor children from the Commonwealth by the custodial parent under the real advantage standard
- § 63:5 Applicable standard in removal cases *[New]*

CHAPTER 64. VISITATION

- § 64:1 Visitation with the non-custodial parent
- § 64:2 Visitation with grandparent
- § 64:4 Visitation and a de facto parent
- § 64:6 Sibling visitation of children in foster care or adoption

CHAPTER 65. CUSTODY ISSUES ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

- § 65:2 The Hague Convention on international child abduction
- § 65:3 The meaning of habitual residence under the Hague Convention
- § 65:4 Child abducted to a country which is not a party to the Hague Convention
- § 65:6 Application Under The Hague Convention On The Civil Aspects Of International Child Abduction—Form

PART XIII. CONTRACTS

CHAPTER 66. MARITAL SETTLEMENTS AND AGREEMENTS—GENERALLY

- § 66:5 Oral agreements
- § 66:9 Non-enforceability of agreements which violate public policy
- § 66:11 Duty of fair dealing and good faith in performance of marital contracts

CHAPTER 68. PREMARITAL AGREEMENTS AND DIVORCE

- § 68:1 Premarital agreements—Generally
- § 68:6 Application of the unconscionability test to premarital agreements in divorce actions
- § 68:9 Premarital agreements and death *[New]*

CHAPTER 69. PREMARITAL AGREEMENTS—FORMS

- § 69:1 Drafting the premarital agreement

CHAPTER 71. THE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

- § 71:1 The pretrial conference—Generally
- § 71:2 Standing probate court orders affecting pretrial conference
- § 71:3 Complete the Child Support Guidelines Worksheet for the pretrial conference *[Retitled]*
- § 71:18 Motion to stay proceeding under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act—Illustrative form

CHAPTER 74. EVIDENCE

- § 74:1 Hearsay
- § 74:3 Spousal disqualification
- § 74:9 Status inquiry about decision more than five months after hearing of evidence and matter being taken under advisement *[New]*
- § 74:10 Judicial consideration of evidence *[New]*

CHAPTER 75. JUDGMENT AND POST- JUDGMENT PROCEEDINGS

- § 75:8 Motions for a new trial or to open judgment—Generally
- § 75:13 Rules governing stay of proceedings to enforce a judgment
- § 75:21 Procedures for submission and disposition of certain post-hearing motions *[New]*

PART XIV. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE PREVENTION ACTIONS

CHAPTER 76. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- § 76:3 Domestic violence and custody visitation orders
- § 76:4 Abuse defined by Chapter 209A
- § 76:5 No contact orders
- § 76:6 Family, household members or others eligible for protection under Chapter 209A defined
- § 76:7 Jurisdiction and venue of the court in Chapter 209A abuse prevention cases
- § 76:8 Remedies for abuse in Chapter 209A cases
- § 76:9 Time limits on relief granted under Chapter 209A
- § 76:14 The domestic violence tracking system
- § 76:16 Service of the notice of the order
- § 76:23 Criminal proceedings against violator of abuse prevention orders
- § 76:24 Criminal prosecution for violation of other statutes
- § 76:25 The crime of stalking
- § 76:28 Probate court custody or support order supersedes orders of other courts in abuse prevention case
- § 76:33 Destruction of vacated 209A orders
- § 76:34 Standard to be applied in actions to renew an abuse protection order
- § 76:35 Standard to determine a defendant's request to vacate or modify an abuse prevention order

CHAPTER 77. PLEADINGS, ORDERS AND APPEALS IN CHAPTER 209A ABUSE PREVENTION CASES

- § 77:10 The Abuse Prevention Order—Generally

CHAPTER 79. HARASSMENT

- § 79:1 Civil harassment prevention orders

PART XVI. NAMES

CHAPTER 84. CHANGE OF NAME PROCEEDINGS

- § 84:1 Petitions for change of name

Table of Contents

PART XVII. THE CHILD, THE STATE AND THE FAMILY

CHAPTER 85. ADOPTION

- § 85:5 Parental consent to adoption is not required when the court has dispensed with the need for parental consent
- § 85:6 Court decisions on petitions to dispense with consent to adoption
- § 85:34 Adoption of Native American children
- § 85:35 Post-adoption contact between child and birth parents
- § 85:38 Tax credit or income exclusion for expenses of adoption
- § 85:44 Parental leave following adoption *[New]*

CHAPTER 86. GUARDIANSHIP FOR MINOR CHILD OR INCOMPETENT FAMILY MEMBER

- § 86:1 Guardianship of minor child
- § 86:5 Guardian for mentally ill or intellectually disabled adult person
- § 86:7 Substituted judgment for incompetent adult family members in medical treatment cases

CHAPTER 87. THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WHO ARE ABUSED, WHO ARE WITHOUT PROPER GUARDIANSHIP OR WHO HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS

- § 87:1 The care and protection proceeding
- § 87:2 The statutory basis of actions for the care of children
- § 87:11 Voluntary surrender of child into care of the department of children and families
- § 87:24 Hearing on the merits and commitment orders in care and protection proceedings
- § 87:26 Admission of hearsay evidence of sexual abuse of child under the age of 10
- § 87:27 Standard of proof in care and protection proceedings
- § 87:29 Visitation among siblings in foster care
- § 87:31 Judicial certification of need to remove child from its home
- § 87:33 Determination of the future status of children who have been committed to foster care
- § 87:44.50 Guardianship proceedings in immigrant cases *[New]*
- § 87:45 Vacating a Termination Judgment *[New]*

CHAPTER 89. PROCEEDINGS AS TO THE PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN

- § 89:1 Overview of the Massachusetts statutory system for adjudication or acknowledgment of parentage
- § 89:1.50 Massachusetts Parentage Act *[New]*
- § 89:3 Procedure for voluntary acknowledgment of parentage
- § 89:4 Voluntary acknowledgment of parentage—Sample court form *[Retitled]*
- § 89:5 Filing of notarized voluntary acknowledgment of parentage and challenges to the same *[Retitled]*
- § 89:6 Full faith and credit for foreign judgments or acknowledgments of parentage
- § 89:7 Complaint to establish parentage—Official probate and family court form *[Retitled]*
- § 89:7.10 Answer to Complaint to Establish Parentage Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 209C, § 5 *[New]*
- § 89:7.20 Complaint for Custody-Support-Parenting Time Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 209C *[New]*
- § 89:7.30 Complaint to Establish Parentage (Assisted Reproduction) M.G.L. c. 209C, § 27—Official form *[New]*
- § 89:7.50 Joint Petition for Judgment of Parentage (Assisted Reproduction) M.G.L. c. 209C, § 27—Official form *[New]*
- § 89:16 The decriminalization of the paternity proceeding
- § 89:17 Persons entitled to maintain action or execute voluntary acknowledgment of parentage
- § 89:18 Persons competent to testify in parentage adjudication case
- § 89:19 Paternity of child born to a married woman
- § 89:20 Mandatory joinder of presumed father
- § 89:21 The privilege against self-incrimination in parentage cases
- § 89:22 Husband-wife disqualification to testify as to confidential communications does not bar testimony by a spouse or former spouse which is otherwise competent
- § 89:23 Views of the parties
- § 89:24 Evidence that the mother had sexual relations with men other than the putative father at the probable time of conception
- § 89:25 All other relevant evidence is admissible
- § 89:26 Evidence of red blood grouping tests for the purpose of excluding paternity
- § 89:27 Admissibility of genetic marker test results showing a high degree of probability of paternity
- § 89:30 Power of DOR to order genetic marker testing
- § 89:34 Support order and judgments in parentage proceedings
- § 89:37 Awards of custody and visitation after an adjudication or acknowledgment of parentage
- § 89:38 The exclusive jurisdiction of the probate and family court to determine custody or visitation in chapter 209C actions
- § 89:39 *[Deleted]*
- § 89:40 Proceedings relating to maternity and pregnancy
- § 89:41 Rights and liabilities of sperm donors and others as to children conceived by assisted reproduction
- § 89:43 Effect of marriage of parents on parentage proceedings

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 89:46 Paternity and civil support cases in district courts

§ 89:47 *[Deleted]*

§ 89:51 Modification of parentage judgment

§ 89:55 *[Deleted]*

PART XVIII. MODIFICATION, EQUITABLE REMEDIES AND ENFORCEMENT

CHAPTER 90. PROCEEDINGS FOR MODIFICATION

§ 90:6 Modification of child custody and visitation orders and judgments

§ 90:8 Modification of child support

§ 90:17 Complaint for modification of alimony *[New]*

CHAPTER 91. EQUITABLE RELIEF

§ 91:2 Civil actions for equitable relief in the Superior Court or Probate and Family Court departments

§ 91:22 Invocation of equity jurisdiction to award child support in the absence of express statutory authority

§ 91:23 Equitable credits against child support arrears *[New]*

CHAPTER 92. CONTEMPT

§ 92:2 Standard of proof in civil contempt

§ 92:6 Modification of support in contempt proceeding

PART XIX. APPEALS

CHAPTER 94. PROCEEDINGS ON APPEAL

§ 94:1 General principles governing appeals

§ 94:13 Service and filing of briefs

§ 94:29 Application for further appellate review in the Supreme Judicial Court

§ 94:34 Summary disposition (Rule 23.0, formerly known as Appeals Court Rule 1:28) *[New]*

Table of Laws and Rules

Table of Cases

Index