



# Filing for Child Custody in Oklahoma

Navigating child custody in Oklahoma can feel overwhelming — especially when emotions run high and your child's future is at stake. Understanding your options and the process can make it easier to move forward with confidence.

At Ball Morse Lowe, we help parents navigate custody matters with practical guidance and a steady focus on what matters most — their child's well-being.

## Types of Custody in Oklahoma

- **Sole Custody:** One parent has primary decision-making authority and caregiving responsibility.
- **Joint Custody:** Both parents share rights and responsibilities, which may include shared time or decision-making.

Courts may also issue temporary custody orders until a final arrangement is determined.

# Step-by-Step: Filing for Custody in Oklahoma

## Step 1: Choose Sole or Joint Custody

When filing, you'll need to specify whether you're seeking sole custody or joint custody.

A child custody attorney in Oklahoma can help you understand which option best fits your circumstances and how to present your case to demonstrate what's in your child's best interest.

## Step 2: File a Petition with the Court

Your custody case begins when you file a Petition for Custody in the county where your child lives. You can complete a template online or visit the court clerk's office for assistance.

### When filing your Petition:

- A filing fee is required at the time of submission.
- Make sure your Petition accurately reflects the type of custody you're seeking.
- If you hire an attorney, they can prepare and file the Petition on your behalf, ensure accuracy, and avoid delays or technical errors that could impact your case.

## Step 3: Understand the Factors the Court Considers

Oklahoma judges do not automatically favor one parent over the other. Instead, they evaluate what arrangement best supports the child's well-being and stability.

### Some of the most common factors include:

- The wishes of each parent
- The child's preference (if mature enough)
- The relationship between the child and each parent
- The child's emotional, educational, and physical needs
- Each parent's mental and physical health
- Any history of substance abuse or criminal activity
- The stability of each home environment
- Family ties, community involvement, and school participation
- Ability to provide consistent medical care, safety, and structure

No two families are alike — and courts take that into account. Each custody case is as individual as the child at the center of it.

## Step 4: Court Decisions and Final Orders

Once the court reviews all evidence and testimony, it issues a final custody order outlining:

- Parenting time and visitation schedules
- Legal decision-making rights
- Holiday and summer arrangements

If circumstances change after your order is finalized, you may file a motion to modify custody in the same court (except in cases of emergency).



## Every Family's Story Is Unique — Let's Find the Right Path for Yours.

Custody matters are personal and emotional. At Ball Morse Lowe, we combine compassion with strategic guidance to help parents move forward with confidence — always keeping your child's best interests first.

Schedule a free consultation to explore your options and take the next step forward.

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