



# El Camino College

## COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD - Official

### I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

**Subject and Number:** Law 13  
**Descriptive Title:** Family Law

**Course Disciplines:** Law

**Division:** Business

**Catalog Description:** This course focuses on legally recognized relationships. Emphasis will be placed on the dissolution of a marriage including the legal theories behind the dissolution and the public policy supporting those theories. The course includes requirements of a valid marriage, a Judgment of Nullity, legal separation, dissolution of marriage proceedings, Order to Show Cause, and preparation of proper forms. This course also covers the concepts of separate and community property and division upon dissolution. Other aspects of family law including children's rights, adoption and guardianship are discussed.

**Conditions of Enrollment:** Prerequisite  
 Law 11  
 with a minimum grade of C

**Course Length:**  Full Term  Other (Specify number of weeks):  
**Hours Lecture:** 3.00 hours per week  TBA  
**Hours Laboratory:** 0 hours per week  TBA  
**Course Units:** 3.00

**Grading Method:** Letter  
**Credit Status:** Associate Degree Credit

**Transfer CSU:**  Effective Date: Prior to July 1992  
**Transfer UC:**  No

**General Education:**

**El Camino College:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CSU GE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IGETC:** \_\_\_\_\_

### II. OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

**A. COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (The course student learning outcomes are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each. Student learning outcomes are not subject to review, revision or approval by the College Curriculum Committee)**

1. SLO #1 Legal Memoranda and Forms  
Draft pleadings/memoranda including court forms in accordance with local court rules for family law cases.
2. SLO #2 Providing Direct Assistance to Attorneys  
Apply knowledge of the Family Code in order to provide direct assistance to attorneys including research, client interviews, problem resolution and the examination of ethics in the legal workplace.
3. SLO #3 Legal Comprehension  
Understand and apply theories and principles of family law to interpret legal documents.

The above SLOs were the most recent available SLOs at the time of course review. For the most current SLO statements, visit the El Camino College SLO webpage at <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/slo/>.

**B. Course Student Learning Objectives (The major learning objective for students enrolled in this course are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each)**

1. Assess and define the legal and contractual nature of marriage.  
Objective Exams
2. Examine and analyze premarital agreements and "live together agreements".  
Written homework
3. Distinguish and analyze the differences of a Judgment of Nullity, legal separation and dissolution of marriage.  
Written homework
4. Categorize property and organize any necessary division.  
Objective Exams
5. Conduct client intake interviews and analyze the legal needs of the parties.  
Written homework
6. Prepare necessary documents for child custody and visitation issues.  
Written homework
7. Calculate and verify the necessary child and spousal support.  
Objective Exams
8. Prepare and process Orders and Motions, including Points and Authorities.  
Written homework
9. Distinguish the concepts of separate property, community property, quasicommunity property, and quasi-marital property.  
Objective Exams
10. Draft settlement agreements, restraining orders and court documents.  
Written homework

**III. OUTLINE OF SUBJECT MATTER (Topics are detailed enough to enable a qualified instructor to determine the major areas that should be covered as well as ensure consistency from instructor to instructor and semester to semester.)**

Lecture or Lab	Approximate Hours	Topic Number	Major Topic
Lecture	3	I	Requirements of a Marriage Contract A. Capacity B. Waiting Period
Lecture	3	II	Qualifications of Parties to Marriage A. Age B. Prior Marriage
Lecture	3	III	Prenuptial Agreements A. Requirements and Drafting B. Living Together Agreements and Marvin C. Asset Disclosures D. Waiting Period E. Representation
Lecture	3	IV	The Putative Spouse and Common Law Marriage A. Putative Parents
Lecture	3	V	Distinguish Judgment of Nullity, Legal Separation and Dissolution of Marriage A. Jurisdiction B. Reasons for Nullity, Legal Separation, and Dissolution C. Process for Nullity, Legal Separation, and Dissolution
Lecture	3	VI	Family Law Practice A. Client Interviews and Information Gathering Techniques B. Retainer Letter C. Discovery D. Client Communication and Counseling
Lecture	3	VII	Ethics in the Family Law Practice A. Conflicts of Interest in Family Law B. Avoiding Conflicts of Interest
Lecture	3	VIII	Preparation of Forms for Dissolution of Marriage A. Best Practices and Pitfalls B. Dissolution when children are involved
Lecture	3	IX	Motions and Temporary Orders A. Notice Requirements B. Calendaring Motions C. Scenarios giving rise to temporary orders D. Length of temporary orders

Lecture	3	X	Order to Show Cause and Related Forms A. Prejudgment and Post judgment orders to show cause B. Filing requirements for Order to Show Cause
Lecture	3	XI	Joinder of Parties, Points and Authorities A. Required Parties B. Legal Writing to persuade the court C. Sources in support of persuasive documents for the court
Lecture	3	XII	Child Custody and Visitation A. Parenting and Custody agreements B. Custody Litigation C. Process for revision of custody agreements D. Reasons for revision of custody agreements
Lecture	3	XIII	Child and Spousal Support A. Child and Spousal Support Guidelines B. Spousal Support Agreements and Litigation C. Revision of Child and/or Spousal Support Agreements D. Spousal support eligibility E. Child Support standard of living
Lecture	3	XIV	Concepts of Property and Inheritance A. Future Estates B. Concurrent Estates and Remainders
Lecture	3	XV	Determination of Property Rights A. Different ways of taking title in property B. Division of real property rights such as ground lease, fee simple, profits, easements and additional real property rights
Lecture	3	XVI	Worksheets and Drafting of Property Settlement Agreements A. Property Tax Considerations B. Tax transfer basis
Lecture	3	XVII	Children's Rights A. Adoption B. Adoption Requests and Process C. Emancipation
Lecture	3	XVIII	Guardianships and Conservatorships A. Who is a protected person B. Guardianship and Conservatorship forms and process
<b>Total Lecture Hours</b>		54	
<b>Total Laboratory Hours</b>		0	
<b>Total Hours</b>		54	

#### **IV. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION AND SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS**

##### **A. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Substantial writing assignments

##### **B. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENT USING PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Please prepare an Intake Sheet, using either the Format provided in your textbook, or if you work at a law office, then you may use the format you use at your law office. Base the Intake Sheet upon the Statement of Facts provided in the Jones hypothetical, which will be given to you by the Instructor.

##### **C. COLLEGE-LEVEL CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Analyze the Jones family property to determine whether separate, community, quasi-community or quasi-marital exist and determine rights. Determine values and divide the property according to appropriate law. Analyze the tax consequences of appreciated property in the division. The Jones hypothetical will be given to you by your Instructor. Submit your analysis in a two-page written paper.
2. For the Jones hypothetical, given to you by the Instructor, prepare a custody and visitation agreement. Discuss the concepts of both legal and physical custody and provide a visitation plan that will provide for a substantial and continuous relationship for both parents with each child.

##### **D. OTHER TYPICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION METHODS:**

Written homework

Homework Problems

Term or other papers

Multiple Choice

True/False

Other (specify):

Research and Legal Analysis

Draft legal documents and pleadings

#### **V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

Demonstration

Discussion

Group Activities

Lecture

Multimedia presentations

**Note: In compliance with Board Policies 1600 and 3410, Title 5 California Code of Regulations, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Sections 504 and 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, instruction delivery shall provide access, full inclusion, and effective communication for students with disabilities.**

## VI. WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Study

Answer questions

Required reading

Problem solving activities

Written work

**Estimated Independent Study Hours per Week: 6**

## VII. TEXTS AND MATERIALS

### A. UP-TO-DATE REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS

Noyes. The California Family Law Paralegal. 3rd ed. Carolina Academy Press, 2014.

### B. ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOKS

### C. REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

### D. OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

## VIII. CONDITIONS OF ENROLLMENT

### A. Requisites (Course and Non-Course Prerequisites and Corequisites)

Requisites	Category and Justification
Course Prerequisite Law-11	Sequential

### B. Requisite Skills

Requisite Skills
Analysis of legal resources LAW 11 - Analyze legal resources and be able to state a set of legal issues.
Ability to spot and articulate legal issues LAW 11 - Analyze legal resources and be able to state a set of legal issues.
Ability to locate necessary resources to dispose of legal resources LAW 11 - Prepare basic research techniques using a specialized legal library including encyclopedias, code books, case reports and other legal practice materials.
Assessment of legal issues by incorporating information from performed legal research LAW 11 - Assess fact patterns and perform research on various legal topics.
Ability to identify and locate legal resources in traditional and online libraries. LAW 11 - Establish skills in online computer research.
Draft legal pleadings, forms, agreements, and other legal documents that address legal issues LAW 11 - Organize and initiate legal documents including legal memorandum, agreements and legal pleadings.

**C. Recommended Preparations (Course and Non-Course)**

Recommended Preparation	Category and Justification
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**D. Recommended Skills**

Recommended Skills
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**E. Enrollment Limitations**

Enrollment Limitations and Category	Enrollment Limitations Impact
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Course created by Dagmar Halamka on 10/17/1975.

**BOARD APPROVAL DATE:**

**LAST BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 03/21/2016**

**Last Reviewed and/or Revised by Vi Pham on 11/02/2015**

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