

Resources for Review

Divorce statutes are located in the NYS Domestic Relations Law:

Specific statutes are as follows:

Custody and visitation: DRL 240

Orders of Protection: DRL 240

Child support: DRL 240

Maintenance: DRL 236B

Equitable Distribution: DRL 236B

Counsel Fees: DRL 237

Family Court has similar statutes, and these are located in the Family Court Act:

Custody and visitation: FCA Article 6

Child Support: FCA Article 4

Spousal Support: FCA Article 4

Finding a legal service:

**If your client is a DV survivor and needs assistance, here are some resources:
(note not all of these resources have divorce attorneys available)**

For NYC, there is a Family Justice Center (FJC) in each borough:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/programs/family-justice-centers.page>

Other counties have Family Justice Centers. All FJCs have counsellors, attorneys and are linked to District Attorneys.

Other statewide resources for DV Survivors:

Crime Victim Legal Network (statewide, but most resources outside of NYC): <https://crimevictimshelpny.org/legalhelp/>

LawHelp NY (statewide): <https://www.lawhelpny.org/>

There is very little assistance for non-DV survivors, and almost nothing for those who are perpetrators of DV. To complicate matters, many legal services do not handle contested divorces, or post judgment enforcement actions. Some bar associations have low bono attorneys.

Also, it is unethical for divorce attorneys to take a case contingent on winning (or receiving a portion of the house) so most clients will have to pay a retainer before the attorney begins the work.