

Family Law is a broad area of law that covers relationships between people and sometimes between individuals and the state. Although most family law is practiced at the state level according to state legislation, federal and international law may also be involved (for instance, when intercountry adoptions are involved). Family law is a highly legislated area of law. Family law practitioners often work as solo practitioners but can also work for law firms as well. Many family law attorneys work for one of several state agencies involved in family law, e.g., Department of Children and Family Services (DCF), Guardian Ad Litem Program (GAL), Office of Regional Counsel.

Attorneys practicing in this area of law often specialize in divorce, adoption, guardianship, termination of parental rights, and surrogacy, among others. Family law attorneys often represent spouses in divorce proceedings. They advocate for their clients in issues involving equitable distribution, alimony, time-sharing agreements, parenting plans (custody), and more. Because so many family law issues are in a constant state of flux, many attorneys represent clients in proceedings brought to modify a final judgment or order, e.g., modification of alimony, modification of parenting plan. Some attorneys work for the state, for instance, DCF and represent the state in proceedings brought against a neglectful or abusive parent to terminate his or her parental rights.

Job Type	Typical Duties
<p><u>Federal Agencies</u> Administration for Children and Families Children’s Bureau U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Federal Jobs</p>	<p>Varied, depending on the agency Research Drafting policy</p>
<p><u>FL State Agencies</u> Florida Department of Children & Families Guardian Ad Litem Office of Regional Council Florida State Jobs</p>	<p>Representing the state in dependency proceedings. Representing parents or children in dependency proceedings.</p>
<p><u>Private Law Firms</u></p>	<p>Helping clients through a divorce including: Division of assets and debts, determining child support and timesharing Adoptions Mediations Negotiations Drafting correspondence. Representing clients in court</p>

Student Organizations

[Family Law Society](#)

If any of the links attached to this document are in error please contact law-careerdevelopment@nova.edu with the name of the page and URL in error so that it can be corrected. Thank you.

Professional Organizations

[American Bar Association Family Law Section](#)

[Florida Bar – Family Law Section](#)

[American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers](#)

[National Academy of Family Law Attorneys](#)

Other Activities

Obtain an internship with an attorney or firm who practices Family Law.

Pro bono work with organizations listed in the Pro Bono Honor Program Handbook.

Participate in the Children and Families Clinic program at Nova.

Periodically check the [Simplicity Job Board](#) for opportunities in this area of law.

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