



TYPES OF COURT CASES

- **Child Support** | A child support petition is filed when a parent, guardian, spouse, or other relative seeks financial support from a non-custodial parent to care for the child in common. A court appearance involving child support may include an initial child support determination, a petition for modification of a prior/existing child support order, or a petition for enforcement/violation of a child support order.
- **Custody/Visitation** | A petition for an order of custody is filed when one or both of a child's parents or another individual seeks legal responsibility for the care, control, and support of a child. A petition for an order of visitation is filed when a non-custodial parent or other relative, such as a grandparent or sibling, wants the right to visit with a child. A court appearance involving custody or visitation may include discussion of changes to a custody or visitation order and discussion about the violation of an existing order or the appointment of an attorney for the child.
- **Order of Protection** | A family offense petition is filed when a family member claims that another family member committed one or more [acts called family offenses](#) derived from NY criminal law against that person. A court appearance involving an order of protection may include a new filing for a family offense petition, a fact-finding hearing, a dispositional hearing, the issuance of a final order of protection, or discussion about a violation or modification of an existing order.
- **Parentage** | A paternity petition is filed to determine whether someone is the legal father of a child born to parents who were not married to each other when the child was born. A court appearance involving determination of parentage may include an initial court appearance, a subsequent court appearance to discuss paternity test results, or a fact-finding hearing.
- **Spousal Support** | A spousal support petition is filed when financial support is sought between separated spouses. A court appearance involving spousal support may include an initial support determination, a petition for modification of a prior/existing support order, or a petition for enforcement/violation of a support order.