



MONTANA

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Are you involved in a divorce or parenting plan?

There are now two ways for your District Court to handle the case if you live in one of the following counties: Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, Missoula, Mineral, Chouteau, Hill, or Liberty.

Informal Domestic Relations Trial (IDRT)

- You speak directly to the judge without interruption or questions from the other party.
- The Montana Rules of Evidence do not apply. You explain the issues in a way that makes sense to you and can provide any documents or other evidence without worrying if it's allowed.
- Both parties and the judge must agree to an IDRT.



Traditional Trial

- You or your lawyer present information to the judge by calling witnesses and asking questions of them.
- Each side gets to ask questions directly of the other person and their other witnesses.
- The Montana Rules of Evidence apply, so only certain kinds of documents and testimony can be considered by the judge.



Visit <https://idrt.mt.gov> to find resources that will help you choose the best type of trial for your situation.

Have questions?

Contact the Self-Help Law Center closest to your county.

<https://courts.mt.gov/selfhelp/>