

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

**FAMILY LAW
LAW 2110**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Revised: Fall 2014

Catalog Course Description:

A study of substantive and procedural law relating to divorce, custody, support and adoption and the assistant's role in domestic cases.

Entry Level Standards:

College-level competencies in logic, reading, and English are required.

Prerequisites:

LAW 1000

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Wilson, Mary E, *Family Law for the Paralegal, Concepts and Applications*, 2d. Edition, (Pearson Education 2013). ISBN: 9780135109489

Recommended, Not Required: Rice, Larry; *The Complete Guide to Divorce Practice* (American Bar Association); 978-1-61438-592-9.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to Family Law Practice (1.5 hours); Ethics (1.5 hours)
2	Cohabitation (1.0 hour); Premarital Agreements (1.5 hour); Focus on Case law (0.5 hour)
3	Marriage and marriage statutes (1.0 hour); Emerging Alternatives to Marriage (1.0 hour); Federal and Interstate recognition of Marriage (1.0 hour);
4	Annulment (1.5 hours) The Divorce Process and court requirements: parenting classes, mediation, trial management (1.5 hours)
5	The Divorce Process (3.0 hours)
6	Pleadings in Family Law (3.0 hours)

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| 7 | Discovery and Financial Statements (1.5 hours); Parenthood (1.5 hours) |
| 8 | Parenthood (1.5 hours); Child Custody (1.5 hours) |
| 9 | Child Support (3.0 hours) |
| 10 | Spousal Support (3.0 hours) |
| 11 | Property Division (3.0 hours) |
| 12 | Separation Agreements (3.0 hours) |
| 13 | Domestic Violence (3.0 hours) |
| 14 | Juvenile Court proceedings: The legitimization process (1.0 hours); child custody and support (1.0 hour); Child protection (1.0 hour) |
| 15 | Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights (3.0 hours); Final Exam |

II. Course Goals*:

The course will:

- A. Build student communication skills and expand their legal vocabularies through completion of weekly guided exercises that shall allow them to communicate more effectively with lawyers, legal professionals, and clients. (II, III, IV)
- B. Guide students with practice elements of the work ethic such as professionalism, preparedness, punctuality, honesty, cooperation, dependability, contribution, effectiveness, and good manners. (I, II, V)
- C. Strengthen analytical skills by locating court cases and statutes in the ERC and on Westlaw to determine the application of the rules of family law to specific facts. (II,III, IV, V)
- D. Provide an examination of ethical issues related to legal representation, unauthorized practice of law, confidentiality, and duty of legal professional to provide legal services. (I,II)
- E. Provide the students with a basic understanding of the laws affecting families and children.(I, II).

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the Paralegal Studies program.

III. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- 1. Recognize and avoid acts that constitute the unauthorized practice of law. (B,D,E)
- 2. Identify and avoid acts that constitute the breach of client confidentiality. (B,D,E)
- 3. Recognize potential and actual conflict of interest situations. (B,D,E)
- 4. Identify basic terminology of domestic law. (A, C, E)
- 5. Explain the function and purpose of ante nuptial agreements. (A,C,E)

6. Identify and classify the various kinds of property the domestic client and spouse have acquired. (A,C,E)
7. Distinguish an irreconcilable difference divorce from a divorce on fault grounds. (B,C,D,E)
8. Identify the proper courts that have jurisdiction over domestic matters. (B,C,D,E)
9. Understand and use the basic terms associated with paternity and legitimation. (C,E)
10. Read Tennessee domestic statutes and understand terminology. (C,E)
11. Interpret state domestic law statutes and determine who may marry. (C,E)
12. Interpret state statutes on divorce and determine grounds for divorce. (C,E)
13. Interpret state child support guidelines and compute child support. (C,E)
14. Know the difference between marital and non-marital property. (C,D,E)
15. Understand the rights and obligations of both custodial and noncustodial parents. (C,D,E)
16. Recognize the formal requirements for a valid marriage. (C,D,E)
17. Develop and use checklists to elicit the information necessary for the preliminary draft of a divorce complaint.(A,B,C,D,E)
18. Develop and use checklists to elicit the information necessary for the preliminary draft of a custody modification petition. (A,B,C,D,E)
19. Develop and use checklists to elicit the information necessary for the preliminary draft of a child support modification petition. (A,B,C,D,E)
20. Understand the role of a guardian ad litem in custody proceedings. (C,D,E)
21. Recognize the paralegals role in assisting the attorney in performing the required duties of a domestic practice. (A,B,C,D,E)
22. Define the techniques for child support enforcement. (C,D,E)

* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 80% of grade

The primary evaluation technique in this course will be through testing.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

N/A

C. Field Work:

N/A

D. Other Evaluation Methods: 20% of grade

Students shall draft documents appropriate for a family law practice

E. Grading Scale:

A	93-100
B+	88- 92
B	83- 87
C+	78- 82
C	73- 77
D	65- 72
F	64 and below

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

Please see the Pellissippi State Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 04:02:00 Academic/Classroom Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions for the complete policy.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students that need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Disability Services (DS) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Disability Services may be contacted by sending email to disabilityservices@pstcc.edu, or by visiting Alexander 130. More

information is available at <http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>.

D. Other Policies:

Computer Usage Guidelines:

College-owned or –operated computing resources are provided for use by students of Pellissippi State. All students are responsible for the usage of Pellissippi State's computing resources in an effective, efficient, ethical and lawful manner. (*Pellissippi State Online Catalog*)