



MONTANA

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Are you involved in a divorce or parenting plan?

There is a new way for your District Court to handle the trial.

Informal Domestic Relations Trial (IDRT)

- You speak directly to the judge without interruption or questions from the other party.
- You explain the issues in a way that makes sense to you and provide any documents or other evidence without worrying if it's allowed under the Montana Evidence Rules.
- The judge asks you and the other party questions.



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.



As of October 1st, 2023 all family cases where at least one person doesn't have a lawyer will be handled using the IDRT process. This will happen automatically, unless you or the other party tell the court that you want to opt out and use a traditional trial instead.

Have questions?

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

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