



The Law Offices of

**MICHAEL D. FINLEY**

**661.964.0444 ☎ 661.964.0445**

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Our offices are freeway close, just 5 minutes north of Los Angeles, in the beautiful Santa Clarita Valley. From the Golden State (5) Freeway, take Lyons Avenue East, turn left at Wiley Canyon Road, and drive a few blocks down to Orchard Village Road.

You will find us at the Southwest corner of Orchard Village Road and Wiley Canyon Road, in a 2-story red brick building that is known as the Newhall School District building. We are located on the first floor.

**Divorces:** Settlements or contested matters large and small, complex and simple, including issues regarding children, property rights, reimbursements, and support.

**Domestic Partnership Dissolutions:** California domestic partnerships are subject to Community Property Laws, as well as custody, visitation, and support rules, just like a marriage, and can be dissolved through the courts to enforce those rights or by a filing with the state for a simpler termination.

**Child Custody & Visitation:** Custody and visitation issues may arise during a pending divorce or paternity case or as a later (post-judgment) proceeding, and require wise, experienced, thoughtful help and advice.

**Child Support:** In divorce, paternity, domestic partnership, and domestic violence cases, the courts are required to follow the state's guidelines for child support, with a few rare exceptions that usually involve a stipulation between the parties, but it helps to have an attorney to run the calculations correctly.

**Spousal Support:** Interim spousal support prior to reaching trial is often based upon a preferred rough formula in each county. There is no absolute formula for calculating spousal support at trial, but there are factors the courts consider and you need an experienced attorney to present your case.

**Pre-Nuptial Agreements:** We can prepare or review your Pre-Nuptial Agreement before your marriage or domestic partnership.

**Domestic Violence:** If you have been hurt or threatened by a spouse, former spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-boyfriend, ex-girlfriend, family member, domestic partner, or someone sharing a residence with you, you may qualify for a Temporary Restraining Order and may be able to obtain a permanent restraining order for as much as 3 to 5 years. If you are in fear of being attacked in retaliation for seeking a restraining order, the temporary restraining order may sometimes be issued without prior notice to the other party. If you are attacked, please call 9-1-1. Police can also issue a temporary criminal restraining order pending the filing of criminal charges for domestic violence.

**Civil Paternity:** If you have one or more children with someone who is not your spouse, you can bring a civil paternity case to establish parentage, obtain custody or visitation orders, or set child support. These files are **not** public record and are kept private by the court. If you are allegedly the father of a child and have not admitted paternity in writing, you have a right to a simple and pain-free DNA test.

**Mediations:** We can independently mediate a settlement and prepare the agreement and related papers.

**QDRO'S:** We prepare QDRO'S for pension & deferred compensation plans

**Governmental Paternity:** Any time a child receives government assistance in California (Medi-Cal, food stamps, TANF, or other welfare), the right to support is assigned to the government. The government then brings an action for welfare reimbursement that is known as a Government Parentage (or Paternity) case. In Los Angeles County, all governmental cases are heard at the Central Civil West courthouse located at 600 South Commonwealth in Los Angeles. The main benefits of having a private attorney in these cases are: being advised of your rights and making sure that calculations are run correctly.

**Juvenile Dependency (Dept. of Children's Services):** When the Department of Children's Services believes that a child's health or welfare is in danger due to

sexual or physical abuse, neglect, parental drug use, or other problems, they can and usually will take the child out of the home and bring a Juvenile Dependency Action under the California Welfare & Institutions Code. In Los Angeles County, these cases are heard at the Edmund Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park. Attorneys are appointed for each parent and child, but parents may hire private counsel.

Call to Schedule a Free Consultation

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### **A Law Office for You**

An attorney should be like a good dog: loyal and friendly to its master but trained and ready to attack enemies and intruders appropriately. At the Law Offices of Michael D. Finley, we know who we serve and treat you with the appropriate dignity and kindness while fighting hard to protect you.

We are led by an attorney who has been in practice since 1993, following in the traditions of his father's family practice, with whom he worked beginning in 1986 while going through school, then continuing as an attorney until his father passed away in 2004.

Our philosophy is that we are here to serve our clients, giving appropriate advice and recommendations and working together on your behalf. We treat our clients with friendly respect. We establish professional courtesies with other law firms for our clients' best interests, but remain ready to do battle as needed. It is our job to help you understand the legal process and guide you through it.

Please call for a free consultation up to thirty minutes.

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Drop by and get to know us and you will be comfortable working with our office.

**We also have experience to assist you with:**

#### **Estate Planning:**

- Wills
- Trusts
- Directives to Physicians
- Powers of Attorney
- Pre-Marital & Pre-Domestic Partnership Agreements

#### **Probate/Estates:**

- Trust administration

- Probate
- Property Sales
- Small Estate Administration by Affidavit
- Advice & assistance

**Civil & Small Business:**

- Business formation
- Non-profit formation
- Contracts
- Lawsuits
- Mechanics Liens
- Advice & assistance
- Civil Harassment
- Real Property disputes & lawsuits
- Personal injuries & property damage

**Entertainment & Intellectual Property:**

- Contracts preparation or explanation
- Collaboration Agreements
- Submissions
- Non-Disclosure Agreements
- Music, TV, film, performing minors & motor sports
- Copyrights & Trademarks