

Family Court Binder Checklist

One binder you can find anything in within ten seconds. Use a 2–3 inch binder, numbered tabs, and sheet protectors for anything you'll show the judge.

Tabs, in order

- ☐ 1 · Case information and contacts (case number, court, judge, attorneys, guardian ad litem)
- ☐ 2 · Current orders
- ☐ 3 · Filings from both sides, in date order
- ☐ 4 · Your hearing outline: what you're asking for, key points, questions
- ☐ 5 · Master timeline
- ☐ 6 · Evidence index
- ☐ 7 · Exhibits, one numbered tab each
- ☐ 8 · Witness list and your questions for each
- ☐ 9 · Financial documents
- ☐ 10 · Blank paper for notes

Copies

- ☐ Check your local rules for how many copies of exhibits to bring and whether to exchange them before the hearing
- ☐ Common practice: one for the judge, one for the other side, one for the witness stand, one for you

Bring

- ☐ Pens, highlighters, sticky flags
- ☐ A short list of the three things you most need the judge to know
- ☐ Water, and anything that helps you stay calm

General template for organizing your own information. It is not legal advice and not a court-approved form. Court rules and required forms vary by state and county, so check your court's local rules and self-help center. Doing this by hand takes hours: Custody Commander organizes evidence, builds your timeline and exports court-ready PDFs — free tier and a 14-day free trial at custodycommander.com.