

CHILD SUPPORT VICTORY

The Parent's Playbook

How to Understand Your Own Case Using the Same
Framework the Professionals Use

Strategy. Not Sympathy.

A free guide for any parent standing in family court without a fortune to spend — and without a clue where to start. This will not hand you a shortcut. It will hand you something better: a way to think about your case so you stop guessing and start understanding.

Part 1 — The Parent Mindset

Walk into any family courtroom in America and watch what happens. A parent stands up. They know their story cold. They know every wrong thing the other side did. They feel it in their chest. And then the judge asks one procedural question, and the whole thing falls apart — not because they were wrong, but because they didn't know the **rule** that governed the moment.

That is how most parents lose. Not on the truth. On the process. They pay thousands for an attorney and still don't understand what's happening in their own case, or they go in alone and get buried in words nobody explained to them. The system was built for lawyers and single-state cases. It was not built for you. That is the problem this guide exists to fix.

What Child Support Victory actually is

We are not a father's service. We are not a mother's service. We are not a grandparents' service. We are a **parent's** service — for anyone fighting for a child, by blood or by love. This work has never been about who is right or making life feel fair. Courts don't run on fair. They run on rules. Our job is to help you **understand your case** so you can stand in that room and know what is happening to you and why.

Here is the mindset shift that changes everything: **even when a lawyer works your case, they work for you.** The strategy, the direction, the decisions — those should never be handed over completely and left in someone else's hands. Nobody should walk into the most important fight of their life understanding nothing about it. Whether you hire counsel or stand pro se, you owe it to your child to understand your own case. That is not becoming a lawyer. That is becoming an informed parent who cannot be steamrolled.

“You don't have to know everything a lawyer knows. You have to know enough that no one can move your case without you understanding why.”

Part 2 — The Framework: I.R.A.C.

Every legal argument that wins is built the same way. Lawyers learn it on day one of law school and use it for the rest of their careers. It is called **IRAC**, and once you see it, you cannot unsee it. Four letters. Four steps. This is how you turn “this isn’t fair” into “here is exactly why the court should rule my way.”

I

ISSUE — What is the exact question the court must answer?

Not your whole life story. The single legal question. “Should my child support be lowered based on a change in my income?” That’s an issue. Get this wrong and nothing else matters.

R

RULE — What law or rule governs that question?

The statute, the guideline, the court rule in YOUR state that controls the issue. This is the part parents skip — and it’s the part that wins. The rule is your weapon.

A

APPLICATION — How do YOUR facts meet that rule?

You take the rule and lay your specific facts on top of it, point by point. This is where your evidence, your dates, your documents do the work — connected to the rule, not floating alone.

C

CONCLUSION — What are you asking the court to do?

State plainly what you want and why the rule + your facts require it. Many parents argue for pages and never actually tell the judge what to DO. The conclusion closes the loop.

Issue. Rule. Application. Conclusion. That’s it. Now watch it work on a real case.

Part 3 — IRAC in Action: Lowering Child Support

Let's take the most common situation parents come to us with: **“My income dropped, but my child support is still based on money I no longer make.”** Here is the same messy, emotional situation — run through IRAC.

I	Issue Is a modification of my child support order warranted based on a substantial change in my financial circumstances since the last order was entered?
R	Rule Most states allow a support order to be modified when there has been a substantial, material, and ongoing change in circumstances — often defined by a specific percentage change in income or a set dollar threshold. Your job: find your state's exact modification statute and the number it uses. That number is the rule you must meet.
A	Application You lay your facts on the rule: “My order was set when I earned \$X. I now earn \$Y — a __% decrease — shown by pay stubs, termination notice, and tax records. This is not temporary; it has continued for __ months.” Every fact ties to the rule's requirement. Emotion out, evidence in.
C	Conclusion “Because my income has decreased by more than the threshold my state requires, and the change is ongoing and documented, I respectfully ask the court to modify my child support order to reflect my current income.” Clear ask. Judge knows exactly what to do.

See what happened? The same situation that would've come out as “I can't afford this, please help me” became a structured legal argument the court can actually act on. **That is the difference between being heard and being helped.**

Part 4 — Same Framework, Any Case

IRAC isn't just for support. Run **any** family-court fight through it. Here are two more, in skeleton form, so you can see the pattern holds:

Example: Seeking 50/50 Timesharing

I	Should the parenting plan be modified to equal (50/50) timesharing?
R	Your state's timesharing / best-interest-of-the-child statute and any modification standard.
A	Your facts vs. each best-interest factor: involvement, stability, the child's needs, your role.
C	Ask the court to adopt an equal timesharing schedule because the factors support it.

Example: Contesting Arrears / Back Support

I	Are the arrears the state claims valid, or were they calculated or served improperly?
R	Your state's rules on how arrears accrue, notice/service requirements, and jurisdiction.
A	Your facts vs. the rule: were you properly served? Do the numbers add up? Was there jurisdiction?
C	Ask the court to correct, dismiss, or void the arrears where the rule was not followed.

Your First Three Steps

1. **Find your rule.** Before anything else, look up the specific statute or court rule in YOUR state that governs your issue. You cannot argue a rule you haven't read.
2. **Run your situation through IRAC.** Write out your Issue, your Rule, your Application, your Conclusion. On paper. It forces clarity and shows you exactly where your case is strong and where it's thin.
3. **Build to your conclusion.** Know what you're asking the court to DO, and make every fact point toward it. That's how you qualify — and how you conclude to get what you want.

You Just Learned Something a Lot of People Pay For.

IRAC is the foundation. But every case has its own rules, its own facts, its own traps. Knowing the framework is step one. Applying it correctly to **your** specific situation — in your state, with your facts, before your deadline — is where the real work begins.

Ready to go deeper?

Join our next free webinar, where we break down real cases live — or book a strategy session and we'll help you map your own case, step by step, using exactly this framework.

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This guide is educational information only and is not legal advice. Child Support Victory Consulting LLC is a non-attorney educational and document-preparation service. Laws differ by state; always confirm the rules in your own jurisdiction and consider consulting a licensed attorney about your specific case.