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ALI SHAH FAMILY LAW

# What Happens Next?

A Texas family law guide for the decisions, deadlines, and questions ahead.

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**Strategic Family Law.  
Compassionate Counsel.  
Proven Advocacy.**

ALI SHAH, ATTORNEY AT LAW | HOUSTON, TEXAS



# Clarity first. Strategy from day one.

Family-law issues are intensely personal. They can affect your children, your home, your finances, and your sense of stability.

The first question is rarely just, What can I do? It is also, What matters most, what is urgent, and what facts will shape the outcome?

My approach is to understand the full picture early, prepare the evidence carefully, and give you straightforward advice about the choices ahead.



ALI SHAH

ATTORNEY AT LAW

**Prepare every case as if it will go to trial, so you negotiate from a position of strength.**

# What to do before your consultation.

A few careful steps can preserve options and reduce avoidable problems.

## 01 Address immediate safety.

If you or your child is in immediate danger, call 911. Seek prompt legal advice when family violence, threats, stalking, or urgent child-safety concerns are involved.

## 02 Preserve the facts.

Save important messages, photos, financial records, calendars, school or medical information, and other material that explains what happened. Keep originals intact.

## 03 Avoid impulsive moves.

Before changing a child's residence, moving money, closing accounts, signing an agreement, or responding to legal papers, get advice tailored to your situation.

## 04 Read every court document.

Note every deadline and hearing date. Court orders must be taken seriously, even when you disagree with them.

## 05 Build a concise timeline.

List key dates, current arrangements, existing orders, important people, and the outcome you hope to achieve.

**Do not assume a verbal agreement or text message replaces a court order.**

# How a family-law case often moves forward.

Every case has its own timing, but most matters involve a version of these stages.



Timing depends on the county, the court calendar, complexity, conflict, and the evidence needed.

# Children. Property. Support. Court orders.

Strong strategy begins by separating the urgent questions from the long-term decisions.

01

## Children

Texas custody questions often involve conservatorship, possession and access, support, safety, stability, school, health, and the child's best interest.

02

## Property + finances

Community and separate property, debts, businesses, retirement, real estate, reimbursement claims, and financial records may require detailed analysis.

03

## Existing orders

Modification may be available when legal requirements are met. Enforcement may be necessary when an order is not followed.

04

## Emergency concerns

Temporary restraining orders, temporary orders, and protective orders serve different purposes. The correct option depends on the facts.



# Your consultation checklist.

Bring what you have. Missing pieces can be identified together.



## CHILDREN + ORDERS

- Existing orders, pleadings, notices, and hearing dates.
- A current possession or access calendar.
- School, medical, therapy, or childcare information.
- A concise timeline of important events.

## FINANCIAL PICTURE

- Recent pay stubs, tax returns, and account statements.
- Real estate, retirement, business, debt, and insurance information.
- A list of major assets and recurring expenses.
- Questions about separate and community property.

## COMMUNICATIONS + EVIDENCE

- Relevant texts, emails, photos, posts, or recordings.
- Names and contact information for potential witnesses.
- Original files preserved whenever possible.

## YOUR PRIORITIES

- What needs attention immediately.
- The outcome you want for your children, property, and future.
- Questions you need answered before deciding.

YOUR NEXT CONVERSATION

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# Speak with an attorney who prepares for the real case.

Ali Shah Family Law represents clients in divorce, custody disputes, modifications, child support, enforcement actions, protective orders, property division, mediation, high-conflict litigation, and trial.

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## Schedule a confidential consultation

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Serving Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Brazoria, Galveston, Jefferson, Chambers, Liberty, and Waller Counties.

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