

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FAMILY COURT
Domestic Relations Branch**

PRINT YOUR NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS: CHECK BOX IF YOU
HAVE WRITTEN SOMEONE ELSE'S ADDRESS BECAUSE
YOU FEAR HARASSMENT OR HARM.

DR _____

Related Cases:

PLAINTIFF,

v.

PRINT OTHER PARTY'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

DEFENDANT.

COMPLAINT FOR CUSTODY and/or ACCESS TO CHILDREN

Action Involving Child Support yes no

I, _____, am the Plaintiff in this case, and I am asking the
PRINT YOUR NAME

Court to grant my request for [CHECK ONE] custody and access/visitation
 access/visitation only.

1. I state the following about the child(ren) in this case:

Child's Full Name	Child's Date of Birth

2. I state the following about my relationship to the child(ren) in this case: [CHECK ONE]

- I am the biological or adoptive parent
- I am the child(ren)'s non-parent caretaker
- Other _____

3. I state the following about the other party's relationship to the child(ren) in this case:
[CHECK ONE]

- The other party is the biological or adoptive parent
- The other party is the child(ren)'s non-parent caretaker
- Other _____

4. This Court has the authority to decide issues of child custody because: [CHECK ONE]

Home State. The District of Columbia is the child(ren)'s "home state" because the child(ren) currently live(s) in the District of Columbia *AND* has/have lived in the District of Columbia for at least six months immediately before filing this Complaint.

Home State. The child(ren) do not currently live in the District of Columbia, *BUT* the District of Columbia was the "home state" *AND* the child(ren) has/have been away from the District of Columbia for less than six months before the filing of this Complaint *AND* a parent or a person acting as a parent continues to live in the District of Columbia.

Significant Connections. There is no "home state" or the "home state" has declined to exercise jurisdiction on the grounds that the District of Columbia is the more appropriate forum *AND* the child(ren) and at least one parent or person acting as a parent has a significant connection with the District of Columbia *AND* there is substantial

evidence available in the District of Columbia concerning the child(ren)'s care, protection, training and personal relationships.

More Appropriate Court. All courts with jurisdiction have declined to exercise their jurisdiction in favor of the District of Columbia because this is the more appropriate Court to determine custody of the child(ren).

No Other Court. There is no other court with jurisdiction to determine custody of the child(ren).

Temporary Emergency Jurisdiction. The District of Columbia is not the "home state" *BUT* the child(ren) is/are present in the District of Columbia *AND* the child(ren) has/have been abandoned *OR* it is necessary in an emergency to protect the child(ren) because the child(ren), or a sibling or parent of the child(ren), is/are subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or abuse.

5. The minor child(ren) currently live(s) at the following address(es) with the following person(s):

Child's Name	Current Address	Since What Date	Child Lived With (names)

8. I state the following about other cases involving the child(ren): [CHECK ONE]

There are no other cases concerning custody of, or access to, the child(ren), and there are no other cases that could affect this proceeding.

The following cases concern custody of, or access to, the child(ren), or involve one or both of the parties: [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

custody

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	DATE OF ORDER, IF ANY
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abuse/neglect

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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access to children (visitation)

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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adoption

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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child support

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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divorce

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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domestic violence (civil)

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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domestic violence (criminal)

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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juvenile delinquency

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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mental health/retardation

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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paternity

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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termination of parental rights

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT	CASE NUMBER	NATURE OF PROCEEDING
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9. I state the following about other persons not named as parties to this case: [CHECK ONE]

I do not know of any other person not already named as a party to this case who is physically caring for the child(ren) or who claims a right to legal custody of, physical custody of, or access to the child(ren).

The following person(s) not already named as a party to this case is/are physically caring for the child(ren), or claims a right to legal custody of, physical custody of, or access to, the child(ren):

Name	Current Address

10. Legal Custody. I am a fit and proper person to have legal custody of the minor child(ren) and make decisions about their well-being, *and* I believe that it is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) that legal custody be awarded to me as follows: [CHECK ONE]

joint legal custody

sole legal custody

11. Physical Custody. I am a fit and proper person to have physical custody of the minor child(ren) and to have parental responsibility and control of the child(ren), *and* I believe that it is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) that physical custody be awarded to me as follows: [CHECK ONE]

joint physical custody

sole physical custody

16. I state the following about Medicaid and DC Healthy Families: [CHECK ONE]

- I am currently receiving Medicaid and/or DC Healthy Families.
- I am *not* currently receiving Medicaid and/or DC Healthy Families.

17. I state the following about child support: [CHECK ONE]

- There is no child support case or child support order.
- There is a child support case or child support order:

NAME & LOCATION OF COURT

CASE NUMBER

NATURE OF PROCEEDING

Request for Relief

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST that [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]:

- The Court grant my request for custody and/or access to the children.
- The Court enter an Order setting forth a custody arrangement and/or access schedule in the best interests of the minor child(ren).
- The Court hold a hearing on my request for child support within 45 days of filing and issue a Notice of Hearing and Order Directing Appearance (“NHODA”) to the other party with the date and time of the hearing.
- The Court award child support according to the Child Support Guideline of the District of Columbia and other applicable laws, including:
 - current child support (support starting today and continuing into the future)
 - retroactive child support (support for time before today)
 - medical support
- The Court *include* our written agreement as a part of its order.
 not include our written agreement as a part of its order.

I ALSO REQUEST that the Court award any other relief it considers fair and proper.

[CHECK ONE]

I *do not* know of any proceedings in the District of Columbia or in any state or territory involving the same claim or subject matter as this case.

I *do* know of proceedings in the District of Columbia or in any state or territory involving the same claim or subject matter as this case, as listed on the first page of this Complaint (“Related Cases”).

Respectfully Submitted,

SIGN YOUR NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER

SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS: CHECK BOX IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN SOMEONE ELSE’S ADDRESS BECAUSE YOU FEAR HARASSMENT OR HARM.

I, _____, solemnly swear or affirm under criminal penalties for the making of a false statement that I have read the foregoing Complaint for Custody and/or Access to Children and that the factual statements made in it are true to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

SIGN YOUR NAME

DATE

PRINT YOUR NAME

RULE 4 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

WHEN YOU FILE YOUR COMPLAINT, THE FAMILY COURT CENTRAL INTAKE CENTER WILL GIVE YOU A **SUMMONS** THAT YOU MUST SERVE ON THE OTHER PARTY WITH A COPY OF YOUR COMPLAINT.

YOU MUST SERVE THE OTHER PARTY BEFORE THE SUMMONS EXPIRES IN 60 DAYS.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE THE OTHER PARTY WITHIN THE 60 DAYS, YOU CAN ASK THE FAMILY COURT CENTRAL INTAKE CENTER TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER SUMMONS. THE SECOND SUMMONS IS CALLED AN "ALIAS SUMMONS." YOU **MUST** ASK FOR THE ALIAS SUMMONS **BEFORE** THE FIRST SUMMONS EXPIRES.

HERE ARE THE WAYS YOU CAN SERVE YOUR COMPLAINT AND THE SUMMONS:

- **by having someone else**, who is over 18 years old and not a party to the case (NOT you), **hand it to the other party**; or
- **by having someone else**, who is over 18 years old and not a party to the case (NOT you), **leave a copy at the other party's home** with a person of suitable age and discretion who lives there; or
- **by mailing it to the other party** by certified mail, return receipt requested.

IF THE RETURN RECEIPT ("GREEN CARD") COMES
BACK TO YOU, FILE IT WITH THE FAMILY COURT
CENTRAL INTAKE CENTER BY ATTACHING IT TO AN
"AFFIDAVIT OF RETURN OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED
MAIL."

AFTER YOU SERVE THE OTHER PARTY, YOU MUST COMPLETE THE CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE PORTION FOUND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SUMMONS AND FILE IT WITH THE FAMILY COURT CENTRAL INTAKE CENTER.